

been made but the guilty parties have covered up their misdeeds, and it is seldom that convictions are secured. Recently the robberies had increased alarmingly. On Saturday night last a raid was made by the gang on the store of Woolley Bros. at Correct, Ind. ten miles from here. The sheriff heard of the raid and with a posse of men in wait for the robbers and Schmitz and Gordon, Bert Andrews, E. Levi, William, and Henry Schuler were arrested. While the citizens have not been able to stop the various robberies upon these men they were thought to be a part of a gang that had committed most of them. When it became known that they were in jail, it was quietly suggested by the victims and sympathizers that "justice" be summarily dealt the prisoners.

It was one of these things when the hoemen seemed to come from all quarters and dismounted on a hillside near and rode into town. The jail was in charge of William Keenan. In front of the jail proper is the residence, and in that were acting jailer Keenan and Robert Barnett, Wm. Black and L. Gordon, deputies. Shortly before two there was a knock at the door, and when Keenan and others opened it they were confronted with pistols held by three masked men and asked to turn over the keys. This they did, and the mob fled into the jail. The prisoners Levi, Jenkins and Schmitz were on the lower floor, Gordon and Andrews were in the upper tier. Levi, Jenkins and Schuler showed fight and the former was shot through the breast while the skulls of others were crushed with a stone. There were in readiness, and adjusting a noose around the neck of each, the five prisoners were dragged 200 feet to the river, where the bodies were suspended. It is said Levi, Jenkins and Schuler were dead before being hanged.

Justice of the Peace Charles Lowell held an inquest over the five bodies this morning. None of the citizens seem to deplore the action of the mob, and, on the contrary, the hanging of three or four more members of the gang to-night is being talked of, and it is not done. No troops have been asked for, and the citizens say they are not wanted.

THE WHEAT CROP

Figures Presented by United States Government—Prices Will Remain High.

Situation of the Yields of the World Reviewed—American Outlook Favorable.

Washington, Sept. 15.—The following, relating to the wheat situation, is an extract from the monthly report of John Hyde, the statistician of the agricultural department, just issued.

High prices for wheat have for several weeks past been bringing out supplies quite freely, and increased supplies in turn reacted on prices, causing a reaction from the highest figure of August.

The general tenor of the information gleaned from all available sources is, however, of a character to warrant the expectation of the fall, according as the matter is regarded, from the consumer's or producer's point of view, of any material cheapening of wheat until another crop is in sight, with a prospect of ampler stocks.

With the annual average European products of 1,428,000,000 bushels during the six years from 1891 to 1896, inclusive, this year's crop is estimated at 1,428,000,000 bushels, or 50,000,000 bushels over the average of the six years.

If we make the comparison with the figures given by the European countries, the figures in million of bushels being: Average for 1891-96, 1,428,000,000. Crop of 1897, 1,428,000,000. Difference, 118,000,000.

There is, according to Beecham's estimate of this year's crop, a deficiency of 118,000,000 bushels in European countries, as compared with their average products for the past six years, an average which includes the exceptionally small crop of 1896.

To make up the deficiency, little help is to be expected from India, Argentina or Australia, for months to come. In so far as Europe will have to rely on the quantity that must be imported, it will have to rely on the United States, especially from the United States, the Canadian contribution being relatively small.

Official returns from Ontario and Manitoba give for these two provinces an aggregate of 51,042,238 bushels. If the average of the crop should be 50,000,000 bushels, it seems likely to turn out unusually well, and from January, 1898, when the bulk of the harvest will be in, the grain, that is, wheat, may have more or less wheat to export, as the latest mail advises represent the crop as being in good condition, and the weather highly favorable.

There are, however, many chances of serious damage during the next three or four months.

The latest accounts from Australia indicate that the drought from which that country has suffered for the last two or three seasons, has been broken, and that wheat crop is promising promise throughout most of the Australian colonies, but the area was narrowed by drought at seeding time, and stocks must be low.

It is not likely that even with a fall yield the crop will be one out of which any great amount can be spared for exportation. The present high prices would tend to encourage the sowing of an increased breadth in India, should the weather be favorable for the season.

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PROVINCIAL NEWS

Nelson Amused by a Love-sick Irishman—Government Lots To Be Sold.

To Investigate Row in Rossland Customs House—Railway Work at Slocan City.

The Question of Making the Harrison River Navigable—Test of Can-making Machines.

Nelson, Sept. 12.—This city has had a constant source of amusement in the love of Paddy Miles for Mrs. McDonald. The lady repulses him. Whenever he gets under the influence of liquor, he goes to see her generally brutally, beats her for rejecting his advances. Not long ago he was on the same charge given four months in Kamloops, jail when the judge had only three months, him up on that charge for three months, Wednesday night, while very drunk, he went to the Kootenay Lake hospital to see the lady of his love. The matron saw him coming and, before his admission, knowing his disposition to assault Mrs. McDonald, he forced an entrance and scared the matron and patients badly. He was ejected and Chief of Police Wolverton gathered him in jail to await the action of the grand jury.

C. A. Waterman & Co., who will auction them off, announce that on Tuesday, October 7, the sale of government lots will take place at 2 p.m. at the court house, under instructions of Hon. G. B. Martin, chief commissioner of lands and works. Seattle parties have money here to bid on the lots. All government lots of the original town site of Nelson which remain will be sold, except block 49, which is reserved by the government for some purpose unknown. Marked maps of lots are posted up all over town. There are 450 lots to be sold, scattered over 35 blocks. The lowest price will be \$100 and up per lot. All purchasers must pay squatters an appraisal valuation on the improvements made. It is thought many squatters will lose their homes, and the balance of the balance in thirty days.

The breach of promise suit of Mrs. Sarah Ella Rideout against Mr. W. McLeod ended in a verdict of \$3,000 for the plaintiff, after the jury had deliberated two hours. The plaintiff, who is a rather pretty blonde of 35 years, was married to Rideout at Stillwater, Me., in 1885, and left him in 1889 and went to Seattle. Thence she went with McLeod to Whatcom, and under the promise of marriage, lived with him as his wife while they ran a saloon. Then they went to Cripple Creek, but after three days they went to Rossland. There they started the Hamilton light hotel, which McLeod is still running. Last November he turned the woman out of the house, giving her \$100, but refusing to marry her. His pretext was that she had had criminal relations with Fred Holliday, of Seattle, and that he had joined the Knights of Pythias.

There was a big row on in the Rossland custom house, developing on August 17 into charges of mismanagement, and misappropriation of government funds, filed against Sub-Collector McDonald by Allan Forrester, an assistant whom McDonald had discharged. Several parties were mixed up in it, including Customs Broker Louis Finerman, who was accused of participating in the frauds. Forrester made detailed accounts of affairs to reporters, etc. McDonald denied that there was any fraud in the report, and the case was referred to the authorities at Ottawa, to-day he received instructions from Ottawa to at once fully investigate the whole affair. The outcome is eagerly awaited.

The Gray sawmill is to be abandoned, as it is right in the way of the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway, the present terminus to connection with the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway. The new mill will be built on piles, north of the track. It will extend along the shore 330 feet, and be 30 feet wide. An engine new plant will be put in, including an 80 horse power engine and two boilers. Pile driving will commence next Monday.

A change of time on the Canadian Pacific railway has been announced, commencing Monday, the 13th. The outgoing train will leave Nelson at 5 p.m., arriving at Robson at 6:40, in time for dinner on the boat to Trail. Returning the train will leave Robson at 7:10, reaching Nelson at 8:50 p.m.

Nelson, Sept. 15.—The Hamilton & Rossland Gold Mining company has decided to push work on the Tennessee, one of its most valuable properties, which is located near Ennis. To that end the secretary, H. W. Cleverley, is in the city closing a contract for the tunneling. The company has four men working at the mine to determine where the richest ore chutes is, and they are stripped about two hundred feet already. As soon as the best spot is decided upon, the work will begin. The work will be done under the direction of E. G. Locke of this city.

Last Saturday evening a Theosophical Society was organized here with quite a large membership. A literary society will be on the tapis, and some musically inclined citizens are trying to organize an amateur opera company.

Paddy Miles is out on bail, he putting up \$200 and two friends \$100 each. Some of Paddy's friends have come to the conclusion that he is a little off, and it is said, will make an effort to have him examined as to his sanity. They do not think it is safe for him to be at liberty.

The health officers are determined to do their duty, and are busy poking around the back yards of citizens. Last Saturday afternoon several were fined, the fines averaging \$2.50 to \$5. Several prominent citizens went to-morrow tell the sanitary laws.

Contractor McLean expects the pipe for the water system, at least one consignment, to arrive in the city on Tuesday. He has a large force of men to put right to work as soon as it comes.

VANCOUVER.

Vancouver, Sept. 14.—Dr. W. Ivan Senkler, formerly of Edinburgh and Detroit, and a brother of Mr. J. H. Senkler, barrister of this city, has taken the office formerly occupied by Doctors Tunstall and Poole.

The two Australian liners sail on the dates previously announced, but have reversed their order of sailing. Instead of the Aorangi, the Warrimoo will sail next Thursday, the Aorangi leaving on Monday, 20th inst.

The farewell missionary meeting in Homer street Methodist church on Sunday afternoon last was most enthusiastic. Twenty-four missionaries were present and several of them addressed the meeting. All of them left on the Empress yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Burdis had a narrow escape yesterday afternoon. While attending the funeral of the late Mr. Arthur Burdis, who was killed about a year ago, a horse ran away and becoming ungovernable upset the buggy, throwing Mr. Burdis out of the rig and spraining his ankle. Mr. Burdis had one of his fingers on the left hand broken. It is fortunate that the accident did not result more seriously.

On Sunday the Hon. G. R. Colbourne, A.D.O. to Gen. Montgomery-Moore, effected a brave rescue in Stanley Park. A five-year-old child fell off the bridge and Capt. Colbourne, who was passing, saw the child and immediately plunged into the water and succeeded in rescuing the child. Such acts as these have won for the British army the grand position it now holds in the minds and hearts of men.

News has been received of a distressing shooting accident at Cloverdale on Sunday. Councillor Kerry's gun being accidentally discharged, the shot penetrated the body of his brother Joseph, who was standing a short distance from the wounded man's recovery.

Vancouver, Sept. 15.—James L. Huddart, of the Canadian-Australian steamship line, denies that the British India Steam Navigation Company has purchased the three Vancouver-Australian steamers. The statement probably arises, he says, from the fact that the son of a British India Company's director has joined Mr. Huddart's company. The general feeling is that there is a great struggle impending between the rival steamship companies' interests for control of an all-trans-Pacific trade.

Mr. R. McPherson, M.P.R., returned from a four-month trip through the prospectors he met in East Kootenay, were not satisfied. There was an impression that West Kootenay was a better prospect than the one he had seen. He visited the population at the time of his visit was about 2,000. From Golden to Fort Steele along the valley the land is good for farming.

At the board of trade meeting last night a request from the Victoria board of trade that their resolution, that British Columbia should be represented in the Dominion cabinet be endorsed, was resolved, owing to the political nature of the resolution. A request from the Victoria board that the local newspaper should be given to secure the trade of the Yukon for British Columbia, and that it be made known that the gold fields are in Canadian territory, was received.

The Vancouver board of trade have endorsed the scheme of the B. C. Lecturing, Advertising and Publishing Company, to advertise British Columbia in office, and misappropriation of government funds, filed against Sub-Collector McDonald by Allan Forrester, an assistant whom McDonald had discharged.

Several parties were mixed up in it, including Customs Broker Louis Finerman, who was accused of participating in the frauds. Forrester made detailed accounts of affairs to reporters, etc. McDonald denied that there was any fraud in the report, and the case was referred to the authorities at Ottawa, to-day he received instructions from Ottawa to at once fully investigate the whole affair. The outcome is eagerly awaited.

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head is on. As it passes round further the still jaw is relieved by the aid of canals and rolls, and a small pin directly above the can comes in contact with the can, which forces the can out of the cup, discharging it into an incline chute leading to the crimpers.

One of these machines has the capacity of about twenty Chinamen, and the price is so reasonable that they are within the reach of any of the canneries.

Two of these machines have been in use at the Phoenix cannery for one month. The Vulcan Iron Works are going to build one dozen machines this winter, and Mr. Peck, the proprietor of the Vulcan Iron Works, will purchase the sole right to manufacture them in British Columbia.

New Westminster, Sept. 14.—A wedding will very shortly take place in Holy Trinity Cathedral. The couple who are to be made happy for life are Miss Eagles, the eldest daughter of the well known and popular Mr. Eagles, the barber, and Mr. J. Moffat.

Another wedding being held in the Westminster folks is talked about and will take place, so it is said, some time in November.

Mr. Harvey's little son is progressing very satisfactorily, and there is every hope of speedy recovery. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Kidston and son left here yesterday for Vancouver, and will depart for the east by to-day's train.

NANAIMO. Nainimo, Sept. 15.—Mr. T. G. Rothwell arrived yesterday from Victoria, accompanied by Mrs. Barber, stenographer to the commission.

The Nanaimo Agricultural Society propose holding their annual exhibition on Thursday and Friday of this week.

Young McKinnell, who recently was the victim of a gunning accident, has recovered if no complications ensue.

The New Vancouver Coal Company have removed their diamond drill to the Indian reserve, on Nanaimo river. Men are now preparing the ground for the drill, so it is expected that boring will commence in a few days. This coal was understood to be the subject of a friendly suit in the near future between the Dominion and provincial governments, and was asked off by the Dominions under a "prospecting for coal" license some three years ago.

Mr. Geo. Brown, just arrived from Alberta, reports a promising outlook there. He visited the Albert Consolidated. He says the ledge is now over three feet, and is widening as the work goes down. Mr. D. McKinnon, mining engineer, Albert, says that the ledge is visible from wall to wall.

Mr. Hilton, a mining engineer, and representing a strong Colorado company, has been visiting the Albert Consolidated. He says the ledge is now over three feet, and is widening as the work goes down. Mr. D. McKinnon, mining engineer, Albert, says that the ledge is visible from wall to wall.

ROSSLAND. Inquiry made the stock brokers reveals that the mining stock business, which was almost dead during the summer months, is looking up again. Purchasers, however, are using more judgment than formerly, and are not so ready to take the stock of meritorious properties. The asked price, too, has to be shaded in order to make sales.

The stockholders of the Elsie Mining Company yesterday paid off all the obligations against it, and it is now out of the possession of the sheriff. In order to do this the sum of \$3,000 was deposited in the Bank of Montreal to pay off all liens and judgments and to pay the expenses of the company.

The strike, which had been made on the property of the Rio Grande Mining Company. In the tunnel at a depth of 75 feet a three-foot vein of gold and copper ore has been encountered. The manager says that they expect that it will not be long before they will begin shipping ore. The development work on this mine has been in progress for two years and is of an extensive character.—Rossland Miner.

SLOCAN CITY. A force of men, under Frank Provost's direction, has been this week busy engaged in excavating and timbering preparatory to laying the track between the switch and the platform on the spur which runs on the south side of the freight house, and to the passenger station. Piles are also being driven near where the switch will be. The track running so close to the water's edge necessitates this.

The plans and specifications for the new passenger depot are daily expected to arrive. When they arrive work will be immediately commenced on the building, which by all accounts, will be one of the finest buildings of its kind in British Columbia. The site for the new station will be nearly opposite the end of Arthur street, and will undoubtedly have a tendency to build up that portion of the city. The ground will soon be cleared and got in position preparatory to commencing the construction.

Track laying at the corner and of the line is being pushed with all possible speed, and the road is completed for a distance of about 12 miles.—Slocan City News.

STEVESTON NEWS. Steveston, Sept. 11.—Mr. Pearson, P. M., went to Victoria on Wednesday, and got back to work again to-day. Work in his department is now much easier. The prison was actually empty two nights in succession while he was away. The matter of adjusting accounts among the fishermen and store accounts is still a fertile source of trouble.

At last the leper Chinaman has been removed from here. This man was doing last night when a fisherman was got to undertake the task of taking him down in his boat.

On the invitation of Mr. Lafond, a goodly company of visiting Americans, the new ship of the new Lafond hall for a social evening. An agreeable evening was spent, and the fun was kept up till 3 o'clock this morning.

The ship of the salmon fleet, the Baltimore, of Glasgow, tied up at the Federation cannery this afternoon. She was brought in by the tug Oscar. She is a fine-looking vessel. She is to load 60,000 canisters of salmon. The ships are expected in this week, and our port will be a scene of some activity for a few weeks to come.

Announcement has been made of a lecture to be given next Saturday evening, by Judge Pearson, on "Reminiscences of the Zulu and Boer Wars, and of Life in South Africa." It is hoped to utilize the meeting then held for the further purpose of organizing an association for mutual improvement.

A worthy farmer on the North Arm had to grieve over the loss of nine good fat hogs, which were stolen from a field lying at some distance from his house this week. Diligent search has been made for the porkers, but no trace has been got of them. The thief had better not attempt to take more from the same quarter. The farmer bears a grudge against him, for the porkers were good.

\$91,987 IN SIX WEEKS. Cariboo Mining Company Almost a Le Roi Rival. Ashcroft, B. C., Sept. 14.—Considerable curiosity was aroused when the Cariboo stage arrived and it was announced that it carried the proceeds of the second clean-up of the Cariboo Mining Company's mine, consisting of 3,000 ounces of gold bars, worth \$91,987. It was in charge of Provincial Constable Piper. This is the result of six weeks' work in the mine, \$72,000 having been taken out of the previous clean-up. It goes to the Bank of Montreal at Vancouver.

SUTHERLAND'S PURCHASE. He Has Acquired an Interest in Valuable Mining Property. Nelson, Sept. 11.—It is understood that Hugh Sutherland, with whom are associated strong parties in the east, has acquired a considerable interest in a very valuable property consisting of two groups on White Grouse mountain. There are 14 claims and two fractions included in the transaction, and the sum paid in cash is a very handsome one. A large amount of development has already been done upon the properties, which are tributary to the Crow's Nest Pass railway, and it is understood the parties interested will continue to develop energetically and be working at full capacity by the time the road reaches Kootenay lake.

SHIPMENTS FROM SANDON. They Aggregate 4704 Tons in the Past Six Weeks. Sandon, Sept. 11.—The shipments of ore from Sandon from August 1st to September 9th, inclusive, was as follows: Sandon Star, 1,180 tons; Ruby, 1,140; Payne, 1,598; Idaho mines, 426; Noble Five, 235; Reco, 100; American Boy, 10; Slocan Boy, 15; Wonderful, 13; total, 4,704 tons.

It is reported that the Payne has struck a large body of ore in the lower tunnel.

The Last Chance struck ten inches of clean ore and two feet of carbonates in the No. 3 tunnel on Thursday night when in 240 feet.

A rich strike was made on the Hillside claim at Whiteside on Thursday last. In the incline shaft, being sunk on the vein at a depth of 10 feet, six inches of clean ore and carbonates and two feet of scattered concentrating ore were found on the footwall. The ledge, which is 18 feet wide on the surface, is strong and well defined, and as the ore chutes is widening with every foot of depth great results are expected. The Hillside is one of a group of four claims belonging to the Hillside Silver Mining Company, C. W. and Frank Fortin, who hold interests in the company, are in charge of the development work.

A COSTLY ACCIDENT. It Will Take \$5,000 To Re-launch the Stranded Nakup. Trail, Sept. 13.—No further efforts will be made to pull the stranded steamer Nakup into the Columbia river. She will have to be raised by jack-screws, placed on skids, and re-launched. The combined efforts of the engines of the steamers Nakup, Trail and Kootenay failed to move the Nakup more than a dozen feet, and the river fell so rapidly that she was soon stuck at the edge of the channel and the big boat is resting on small rocks, some of which have almost worked their way through the hull. The mishap will prove an expensive one, and it is likely to cost about \$5,000 before the boat is again in the water. The entire crew is still on board, but some will be laid off until the Nakup is again in service, which is likely to be a month or more. The boat will be raised with jack-screws, and while she is on the stocks she will be generally overhauled. She is 170 feet in length, weighs about 315 tons and cost in the neighborhood of \$37,000.

The Nakup is undergoing repairs. The steamer Lyttton will take her run. The steamer Trail, which has been trying to pull the Nakup off the beach, came down yesterday and made a trip to the mouth of the river, where she is now waiting for the tide to come in, and a quantity of accumulated freight.

DEADLY KIDNEY DISEASE. The Only Way to Avoid the Great Destroyer. Once clear to the individual that kidney disease is a result of uric acid and oxalate of lime, which have their place in the human system, and are forming into stone-like substances, and the folly of treating such a disease with any medicine other than a liquid one that will dissolve these solids, there will be little trifling with pills, powders and remedies of every character, which can possibly effect a permanent cure. The success of South American Kidney Cure is due to the fact that as a liquid it immediately reaches the diseased part, and dissolves these alkalies and hard substances. It is not a fallacy.

Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co. Mrs. Simmons—They say the season of mourning for a dead husband is only three weeks in Persia. Mrs. Proud—Dear me! Persian women can't look well in black.

CROW'S NEST COAL

Operations of the Company to Begin at Once—Robert Jaffray at Fort Steele.

No Coal Monopoly in Eastern British Columbia as it Exists on Vancouver Island.

(From the Fort Steele Prospector.) Robert Jaffray, the well-known capitalist of Toronto, is one of the men most largely interested in the Kootenay Coal Company, of which the following are the officers:

President, Hon. Col. Baker; vice-president, Senator Cox; treasurer, E. Hanlon, Montreal; secretary, J. A. Gemmill, Ottawa.

This company owns about 200,000 acres of the 250,000 acres of coal lands which were granted by the government of this province to Hon. Col. Baker and his associates in connection with the B. C. Southern railway charter. This charter was sold by the Col. Baker party to the Canadian Pacific railway for \$52,000. The sale was negotiated by Mr. Jaffray and Senator Cox, and eight square miles of the coal lands went along with the charter to the C.P.R., the remainder being retained by the above company.

When the C.P.R. went to the Dominion government for assistance in building the Crow's Nest railway (the name was changed from the B. C. Southern to the Crow's Nest by the C.P.R.) Hon. Mr. Blair, minister of railways, in order to protect the public welfare and prevent a monopoly in coal, insisted that one of the conditions under which assistance would be granted was that 50,000 acres of the coal lands should be surrendered to the Dominion government for the benefit of the people. This was agreed to by the above company, and it is the possession of something less than 200,000 acres, a pretty healthy chunk, by the way, particularly when it is remembered that these lands have an estimated capability of producing several millions of tons of coal to the square mile.

Robert Jaffray arrived here last week and on Tuesday, accompanied by Wm. Blackmore, M.E., left for a visit to the mines. An outfit of 28 pack horses fully laden, under the charge of Frank Freeman, went ahead of them.

Mr. Blackmore will have charge of the mining operations of the company and has gone in now to locate the most suitable place for beginning work. The company's lands acquired under the charter have not yet been allotted to them, the arrangements being that the Dominion government shall have the first selection of lands after the grant has been fully surveyed and located. The company, however, own a freehold of 10,000 not yet effected.

These lands lie on Mitchell, Martin, Morrisey and Coal Creeks, and it is not yet known where the initial operations will be begun, but possibly at two or more points at the same time. To reach the lands on Mitchell and Martin creeks, a railway of about 14 miles would be required to be run from the nearest point on the Crow's Nest railway, while to reach Morrisey and Coal creeks only about four and a half miles of railway would be needed.

Mr. Blackmore will make a thorough examination of the various seams of coal where they are exposed and will submit a scientific report on the same, naming their relative value for all purposes of steaming, heating, cooking, etc. This work, of course, will take some little time, but just as soon as it is completed, and a selection made by Mr. Blackmore of a point or points at which actual mining will be begun, railway construction to connect with the Crow's Nest will commence. No time will be lost, and before Mr. Jaffray leaves for the east this fall he expects to see all the preliminaries completed and the work commenced.

"It is my intention," said Mr. Jaffray to the Prospector, "to have our mining operations so far advanced that by the time the Crow's Nest is completed we will be in readiness to supply coal in unlimited quantities."

"At what price per ton will likely be charged?" "Well, of course, that will depend," he replied, "on the distance the coal will have to be shipped. As you know, the Dominion government has granted us a maximum charge of \$2 a ton at the pit mouth. To that the freight charge will have to be added."

"Have you arranged with the railway for freight rates?" "Yes, we have arranged a maximum rate, and while I am not at liberty to state what that rate is, still I can assure you and the public that it is low enough to insure a supply of coal at a price that no one reasonably 'frazzled' at."

"Regarding the sphere of action of coal lands owned by the C.P.R., are they likely to open mines in competition with you for the supply of the market?" "I do not think they will. If they mine for their own use it is all they have a right to do, and probably not even that. They can be supplied from pits operated in a large way as cheaply or more so than if they opened their own veins."

"From the above it is to be seen that no time is to be lost in getting the Crow's Nest coal on the market, and there will undoubtedly be a busy time at the Kootenay Coal Company's mines this fall and winter. Mr. Blackmore, the manager in charge, is a man of very large mining experience. He was the first president of the national association of Colliery Managers (S.S.B.), and is now vice-president of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia. He states that the company's properties are to be opened up with all the modern appliances for economical mining, and the mines are to be equipped on a scale of such magnitude and completeness as will enable them to produce at the minimum of cost, and that there is any possibility of being a market for.

In this connection it is satisfactory to know that the Dominion government has taken the most effective measures to prevent a coal monopoly in eastern British Columbia. Not only have they wrested from the original company, (to whom the provincial government handed over with such prodigality all these valuable coal lands), some 50,000 acres of the best of them, but they have fixed a low maximum price of \$2 a ton at the pit mouth, which maximum the government may reduce if profits of the company become excessive, and they have also reserved the right to regulate the freight charges on the Crow's Nest railway. With this protection of the public interests citizens are relieved of the dread of coal monopoly as it exists on Vancouver Island, and may look forward with the greatest satisfaction to the development of the Crow's Nest coal fields.

A PHENOMENAL SHOWING. Sum of \$142,000 Expended on Assessment Work This Year. An examination of the books in the Recorder's office of the Trail Creek mining district shows that a large amount of assessment work has been done during the present year. It also reveals that the district stands high in the estimation of those who have located within its limits. The showing is phenomenal when it is considered that the Trail Creek district occupies an area of only twenty miles by sixteen miles, and is the smallest in the Kootenay country. The records reveal that since the 1st of January, of this year, assessment work has been done on 1,420 claims in the district. As the law requires \$100 worth of work to be done on each claim, this represents an expenditure of \$142,000. The number of assessments done in 1896 in the district was 1,206, which represents an expenditure of \$120,600. It is expected before the year 1897 is ended that the total number of claims on which assessment work will be done will reach 1,600, representing an expenditure of \$160,000. This will be about 400 more than in 1896, and will make the expenditure \$40,000 more this year than it was last.

The cost of recording each certificate of improvement is \$2.75. This would amount to \$4,400 on 1,600 claims, making the owners of claims never get off with \$100 in doing assessment work. A number of the claims are owned