

THE CHINESE MINERS ON TEXADA.

Although it was recently stated that the none too skillful Chinese workers at the Van Anda mine, Texada Island, would be substituted by white workers, such is not the case. And to make matters worse, the Chinese are not only violating the law against the working of Mongolians underground in metalliferous mines, but also, it seems, neglecting even to take out miners' licenses, whilst the local magistrate, Dr. Forbes, refuses to swear out the needed informations with a view to hearing the charges—an altogether unsatisfactory state of affairs. Nor does the Van Anda mine itself benefit by this Mongol cheap labor, as it is of an unskillful type, and its endeavors lead to comparatively inefficient working.

THE GALENA FARM.

The mechanical appliances and other working apparatus, including provision for the safety and comfort of employes at the Galena Farm mines, are all stated to be highly satisfactory, and constitute a partly redeeming feature of an undertaking, which, although its ores are now looking better and early shipments therefrom are expected, cannot yield any decent returns to such stockholders as have bought for cash, until stock hugely overcapitalized and watered superabundantly be "pared down" on a reconstruction basis, involving reduction of capital, too much of which is really nominal.

THE TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.

Although reports state that Johannesburg is crowded with the unemployed, and news from many Transvaal mine quarters strikes a doleful key, the Rand, or Witwatersrand district, made last year an enormous and "record" gold output, amounting to 3,034,674 ounces. Each year since 1892 has shown a big increase of yield, that of 1892 being 1,120,868 ounces, whilst the return of 1893 came to 1,478,473 ounces, that of 1894 to 2,024,159 ounces, that of 1895 to 2,277,635 ounces, that of 1896 to 2,281,875 ounces, and last year's yield, as above stated, to 3,034,674 ounces.

THE MORNING GLORY.

The shareholders of this Vernon free-milling gold mine have, as a result of trouble and dissensions at the mine, causing the discharge or resignation of leading officials, decided that the mill be shut down pro tem., pending the securing of proper management. There is much comment about Vernon as to the extraordinary style which the affairs of this concern have been conducted, everything about it being seemingly the reverse of businesslike, and the present mill stoppage being virtually a confession of incompetency.

THE SUNSET NO. 2.

This Rosslund mine, in which many Vancouver men are interested, is stated to be making satisfactory development. The main tunnel is now 170 feet beyond the No. 1 shaft, and is in four feet of good ore. Since October 5th last the amount of work done on this property amounts to a total measurement of 539 feet. This consists of upraises 62 feet, tunneling 362 feet, and crosscuts 25 feet, while the No. 1 shaft has been extended 35 feet below the tunnel level, and the No. 3 shaft has been deepened 55 feet.

THE QUESNELLE HAZELTON TRAIL.

The citizens of Ashcroft have petitioned the Provincial Government to build new bridges on and repair the trail between Quesnelle and Telegraph creek via Hazelton. They claim that many Yukon goldseekers will this summer set out for Klondike by the Teslin lake and Hootalingqua route, starting from Ashcroft and making north via the Cariboo road and the Quesnelle and Telegraph Creek trail. The needed improvements can, according to the petitioners, be completed in April, and before the prospectors set out on their overland route to the far north.

DOING GOOD WORK.

His Honor Judge Forin has just dismissed an appeal taken by a man named Adler against the refusal by Mr. Griffith, S. M., of a renewal of a license in respect of an inn known as the Kootenay House, Golden. It came out in evidence that the appellant maintained professional gamblers as bartenders, and that guests in his house were first made drunk and then practically robbed by poker sharps in the landlord's very presence. His Honor promptly dismissed the case, on the ground that the appellant admitted that he allowed—and this also on a Sunday, in defiance of the Sunday observance laws—both intoxication and gambling in his house. The judge, in giving his decision, stated that he meant to make things uncommonly lively for any saloon men who allowed their houses to be used for the purposes of plunder by professional gamblers and other harpies. His Honor Judge Forin will do the best of work if he helps in clearing the Kootenays of professional gamblers and other human vermin, who prey upon the sturdy miner and rob him of a big percentage of his hard-earned wages. It will be well if the mounted police expel a horde of such scoundrels from the Yukon, which is but too likely to be overrun by them. By all accounts more than a thousand of the dangerous element are already making for the Klondike.