

## B. C. Mining Prospects.

Frank W. Peters, assistant general freight agent of the C. P. R., who has been on a trip through the Boundary country in company with W. R. Melmes, of Winnipeg, general freight agent for the company has returned to Nelson, B. C. in the course of an interview Mr. Peters said.

"We first went to Rossland and there visited the Le Roi and War Eagle, which we found to be in the best of condition. With the management of these mines we made arrangements for various matters in connection with the shipping of ore. At Grand Forks we found the smelter working, and it is in splendid condition. The work there has been increased 600 tons per day. We visited the Mother Lode mine, and of this too much in its praise cannot be said, as it is in a most magnificent condition. There is an immense body of ore in sight, and much blocked out. It is now being worked, and the ore is being moved to the bins at the smelter at Greenwood. The B. C. Copper company has been delayed some in the construction of the smelter there owing to the lateness of the arrival of the machinery. The smelter should be in operation by the end of November. Its capacity will be 300 tons per day. We visited the site of the smelter at Boundary Falls and found it quite a suitable one. I had advice to-day that the first shipment of machinery for it was sent from Denver to-day. They should have it completed by the end of the year. The smelting capacity, with this and other smelters of the Boundary will then be large enough to reduce all the ore that is produced in that section. The distance for hauling from any of the mines will not exceed 25 miles and the freight rate can not be a very large factor in obtaining the precious metal from the ore, and with the modern equipments of the smelters, there should be no reason why even the lowest grade ore should not bring a profit to both the smelter and mine owner. There are several properties on the west fork of Kettle river that are showing up well, and it is said by prominent mining men that they are equal to the mines of the Phoenix camp. If this is true there will be enough ore to keep all the smelters running to their fullest capacity. Taking into consideration the present conditions of the mines of East Kootenay, Slocan, Rossland and the Boundary country, prospects were never brighter than at present to make the British Columbia famous as a mining centre. I was never more impressed with the great advantages of the country than I was during my last trip."

## The British-American Co., of Rossland, B.C.

The British American Co., of Rossland and allied companies have 637 men on the pay roll and owing to the inability of the Northport smelter to handle the output of the mines the list of working miners has been temporarily lessened. Some 25 men were released on Saturday morning. Early in the year when the smelter has caught up the force will again be increased. Spokane papers allege that the B. A. Co. are about to erect a refinery at Northport, but this is denied at headquarters here. Manager MacDonald said that in future the ore would be crushed, screened, sorted and sampled here by machinery, and would be delivered at the smelter ready for roasting, and in future to save handling a second time at Northport, a new railway switch is being run up the hill above the smelter. From this switch the ore will be dropped into the new ore bins, and from there will go direct to the roasting beds, entailing a considerable saving from the method now in use.

The White Bear is pumped out down to the 250 foot level and Mr. Warren expects to have the diamond drill at work in the shaft on Wednesday next.

The returns from the Spitzee shipment were very satisfactory. It is stated that two and one half ounces of gold to the ton were received. Some five or six men are at work.

E. B. Kirby, manager of the Centre Star and War Eagle, has gone to Toronto. It is said, in connection with the War Eagle annual meeting.

The output of ore for the last week is 6,420 tons, being smaller than for the week before. The ore shipments are now nearly equal to what they were in 1896, and this week's should either equal or pass them.

Appended are the shipments for the week and year: Le Roi, for the week, 4,220, for the year, 134,878; Centre Star, for the week, 1,980, for the year, 23,110; War Eagle, for the year, 10,600; Le Roi, No. 2, for the week, 53, for the year, 2,267; Iron Mask, for the week, 140, for the year, 1,875; I. X. L., for the year, 420; Giant, for the week, 25, for the year, 414; Evening Star, for the year, 351; Monte Cristo, for the year, 273; Iron Colt, for the year, 90; Spitzee, for the year, 20, total for the week, 6,420; for the year, 170,351.

## Yankee Enterprise Around the Lake of the Woods.

Fred. J. Bowman, editor of the Rat Portage Miner, who has been promoting mining enterprises in the Lake of the Woods district the past year in St. Paul and Minneapolis, passed through Winnipeg this week for Rat Portage. Mr. Bowman is an American, but a seven years' residence here has made him partly a Canadian. He is now interesting heavy American capital in one of the largest mining enterprises yet promulgated in Western Ontario, and if he succeeds a mill will soon be heard that will outrank the Sault and the Mikado. The gentleman did not mention particulars, but promised them in full as soon as matters are arranged satisfactorily to the interested parties.

In conversation with a representative of a city paper, Mr. Bowman said that he was glad to note a better feeling being manifested towards the gold country by Winnipeg business men. In this particular he thinks that the business men of this city are but emulating the public-spirited and enterprising men of Spokane, who were the first to recognize the north of British Columbia mines and reap the harvest because of such sympathy that lifted many from well-to-do circumstances to affluence. Another parallel instance is the history of Denver and Colorado Springs, towns that early saw the gain to be derived from the exploitation of the now famous Cripple Creek district in Colorado. The conditions and situation of the Lake of the Woods gold fields are advantageous to the business interests of Winnipeg as the regions mentioned were to Spokane and Denver, and there are many things, such as accessibility, cheap labor and supplies, water power for cheap operating power for the mines, free milling ores that place the mining public of Ontario beyond the grasp of monopoly in the way of smelter and railroad extortion, that appeal particularly to investors. Mr. Bowman considered that enough had been accomplished now in the way of mining gold from our near at hand fields, hindered though they have been from a too limited capital, to warrant confidence on the part of those who may desire to engage in mining, and to assure all such that failure will not result from exploitation of other fields, not so well situated and with not a tithe of Ontario's advantages, where nature has done so much towards prospecting and developing veins all ready at hand for making paying mines, many of them from "grass roots." It but stands to reason that the successful operation of the Mikado, Sultana, Glass Reef, and others too numerous to be mentioned, is but an earnest of what others may accomplish in Ontario if they will but make the venture. And it will not do to delay too long, as there is a positive awakening of this country now in progress among a number of American cities as to the possibilities of the mines, that sooner or later will cause a boom and will bring about a marked inflation of present prices, and will also bring about a scarcity of available properties being secured at first hand. It is a well known fact that Americans are of a speculative nature, and will take hold of mining properties in the prospect stage that their more conservative English cousins could not be induced to touch. For this reason American capital is particularly welcome to the "old region east of Winnipeg at the present time. When the prospects are made into producing mines our American friends will be ready to sell, at a profit, to their slower going but sure friends across the briny deep.

In addition to being a newspaper man, Mr. Bowman has also put in considerable time prospecting, being the discoverer of the real worth of the Homestake mine, now under development with satisfactory results, and which will probably soon pass into the hands of big eastern American capitalists. He only recently returned from the Gunflint country, where he found some gold and iron properties that will yet be heard from favorably. While on the trip he found the North American Mining Co., a Minneapolis corporation, at work on the old Paulson iron mine, over the boundary in Minnesota. He also saw the big Saganaga Falls, which were examined and measured by an American engineer this past summer, with a view of determining the question of their capacity for providing electrical power for operating an electric railway from the Gunflint iron mines to the American port of Grand Marais, on Lake Superior, 45 miles long. He found the capacity to be 15,000 horse power, and said, with the supplementary powers, numerous and available, that electrical power ample for both railway and mines could be easily generated.

A motion to tender a banquet to Lord Strathcona, was passed at the last meeting of the Winnipeg city council. It is proposed that the council shall act jointly with the board of trade, in this matter.

The published report of an Irish benevolent society says: "Notwithstanding the large amount paid for medicine and medical attendance, very few deaths occurred during the year."

"I should like to know when you are going to pay that bill. I can't come here every day in the week."

"What day would suit you best?"

"Saturday."

"Very well, then, you can call every Saturday."—Tit-Bits.

## Wool.

The American Wool and Cotton Reporter says of the wool trade: "The wool market is decidedly more active and firm, sales for the past week reaching an aggregate of more than 5,500,000 lbs. which is a larger total than has been recorded any week this year. The buying, which until a week or ten days ago was confined to moderate or smaller sized mills, seems to have extended to many of the larger mills as well, and all classes of consumers have been represented in the market. A better feeling prevails throughout, all apparently believing that the time has come when it is safe to operate freely. Prices are hardening all along the line, and while the range of quotations cannot as yet be marked up it is a fact that holders are able to secure better prices than they

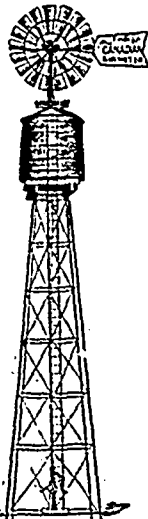
were a couple of weeks ago. Scoured and pulled wools are especially strong."

A country paper says in an obituary, "Mr. X— was an estimable citizen. He lived uprightly, he died with perfect resignation. He had been recently married."

"Thrifty got married rather suddenly, didn't he?"  
"Yes. Somebody gave him a railway pass to Old Point Comfort for two, and he didn't want to waste it."

"Here's a very good book," said the persistent newsboy. "How to Win a Woman."

"You haven't got one on how to lose 'em, have you?" said the bald-headed passenger.



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