

The latest improvements in the upper Slocan country are the Whitewater waggon road and the K. & S. Ry. spur up to the Slocan Star concentrator.

The Alamo concentrator is expected to resume operations about the 10th. The Slocan Star and Washington concentrators have already gone to work. There is now a concentrating capacity of 300 tons per day in the Slocan.

Under the stated new management and stocking of the Noble Five group, a concentrator and Tramway will probably be built.

The Northern Belle is now being actively developed under encouraging showings. This mine has already been a shipper.

According to the Customs returns of Nelson, and data furnished by the C. K. S. Nav. Coy., a little over a million and a half worth of ore has been so far shipped out of West Kootenay for 1896. This does not very amply justify the \$10,000,000 prediction of the early months of this year, yet there will probably be much heavier shipments during the latter half of the year, both from the Slocan and from Trail.

Waggon roads, tramways, concentrators, smelters, and a fair railway service have, but very lately, replaced the pack animal with its 250 lbs of picked ore, in fact the change has been almost entirely within the last twelve months.

The prospecting season is late. The month of May was cold. June has been exceptionally dry and hot, yet the best ground is still covered with snow. This hinders the taking up of options and bonds, also assessment work. In fact claims staked on bare ground at this date last year are at present almost inaccessible, except by man-packings.

The Washington concentrator is at present putting through about 60 tons a day. This concentrates to 20 tons, and two four horse teams take down the ore to the McGuigan siding on the K. & S. Ry.

Two early pioneers of the Slocan are occupying themselves in the country south-east of Slocan lake. One of them is Eli Carpenter, the discoverer, with Seaton, of the rich Slocan galenas, and the locator of the Payne mine. He has recently made another strike. The other pioneer is Bill Springer after whom the Springer creek is named. He has been running the development on the Arlington.

Boundary Creek.

The Mother Lode, Deadwood Camp, has been bonded to Col. Weir for \$14,000. A preliminary payment was made and the remainder is in two equal installments, at the end of six and of nine months. The gold-bearing ore is copper pyrites with a gangue, and in some parts of the deposit, of solid magnetite, in others, of lime, pyroxenite and silicious material. A very clean contact can be traced on the west side between the ore body and the lime. On the surface the ore outcrop shows a width of over 100 feet, but no cross-cuts at a depth have been made.

The shaft on the Copper is down nearly 50 ft. It has been decided to cross-cut and drift at the 50 foot level, instead of waiting till the 100 foot level was reached, as was at first intended. A lime "horse" was encountered at twenty feet, but it was soon passed through and good ore again struck. The ore is copper oxide and glance, along with hematite in a silicious matrix.

The No. 7 shaft is down 68 feet, work has been temporarily suspended until a blower can be put in.

Numerous interests and small prospects are constantly changing hands at prices ranging from \$200 to \$2,000, but of the larger properties, with the exception of the Mother Lode, none have, during the last month been sold.

Mr. Wulffsohn, of Vancouver, representing large English capital, and Mr. J. H. Clemes, mining engineer, of London, are in for an extended examination of the camps. So far they have examined the Sunset, Deadwood camp and the quartz properties of Long Lake.

The northern limit of our mineral belt is being gradually extended. Within the last month numerous and extensive bodies of pyrrhotite, with copper pyrites, have been discovered north east of Long Lake, along what is known as Pass Creek. The surface gold value per ton is only a few dollars, but it is probable that development will show ore of a higher grade.

We are pleased to see that Eastern Canadian capital is beginning to come in. Mr. T. A. Garland and Mr. Hayes of Portage LaPrairie, have secured interests in several properties here—notably the Jewel and Gold Drop, Long Lake camp, also Mr. McArthur, of Winnipeg, is in looking for investments.

The Winnipeg sale, which was being negotiated by Spokane parties, has apparently fallen through. If satisfactory arrangements could be made with the owners, there is, in the opinion of the writer, no better investment for good Canadian capital, than this property. A careful report upon the property by a competent person, coupled with the great name it has already acquired, would cause its stock (if placed upon the market by solid reputable persons) to be eagerly taken up.

Mr. Pettie, the well known English expert, who formed the Alaska-Treadwell Company, will be in the district in a few days.

Quebec.

A fine strike of long fibre of very superior quality is reported from the mines of Messrs. King Bros., at Thetford mines. A cyclone mill has lately been added to the plant to work on dumping material. At the Johnson's, Bell's and American companies, a good deal of activity in mining is noticeable. The demand for the

mineral continues to improve, and there are indications that prices will take an upward tendency. The United Asbestos Co. is doing some work at Broughton. Mr. W. T. Costigan, of Montreal, is reported to have been appointed to the management of the Glasgow and Montreal companies mines at Black Lake, which are to be reopened and worked.

The North American Graphite Co's mill is running full time.

There is nothing new to report from the pyrites mines at Capelton.

The demand for mica continues to be fairly good, and there is some activity at the Wallingford, Blackburn and McLaurin mines in Templeton. A good deal of scrap mica, formerly thrown away, is now being utilized in the manufacture of boiler coverings, roofing material, etc. The principal consumers at present being the Mica Boiler Covering Co. of Toronto.

CANADIAN COMPANIES.

General Mining Association, Ltd.—The following is the report of the directors and accounts submitted to the shareholders on 1st May last: "The directors present to the proprietors their annual report, together with the accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1895, and regret that, in consequence of its having been necessary to remove to new offices, they have been compelled to fix the general meeting for a later date than usual.

The sales of coal were as follows:—

	1896. Tons.	1895. Tons.	Decrease. Tons.
Sydney mines.	223,645	236,125	12,480

The profit on the year's trading, as set forth in the accounts, amounts to.....	£17,040	15	7
Brought forward from 1894	459	1	0

Out of which the directors propose a dividend of 12s. per share, free of income tax, viz	£17,499	16	7
	16,481	8	0

Leaving balance to carry forward.....	£ 1,018	8	7
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The report of Mr. R. H. Brown, manager of the colliery, states:—

"The average number of colliers employed during the season was 295 men; the pit worked 277 full days drawing coal; and the total quantity of 253,969 tons of coal was raised. The best month's output during the season was made in October, when 27,061 tons were raised.

Only 12 cargoes of coal were shipped before the 1st of May, but we then commenced the regular season's work, with 50,700 tons of unscreened coal on bank. The largest month's shipment was made in July, when 34,160 tons of coal were put on board vessels.

The total shipments for the year were 208,895 tons, and the local sales 14,750 tons of large, run-of-mine and slack coal.

The great length of our north side underground engine plane, now upwards of a mile from the pit bottom to the landing, has been restricting the output therefrom, while only one trip of tubs could be run at a time. To obviate this, we have, during the year, completed another plane, contiguous to, and parallel with, the first; this allows the simultaneous running of two trips, the empty trip running down while the full trip is being drawn up; by this means the capacity of the hauling engine and the output are both increased.

A small compressed air plant has been erected during the summer—for the purposes, firstly, of pumping out the water which had accumulated at the lowest places of the north side workings; secondly, of pumping to the shaft bottom, the large body of water remaining in the district, which had to be flooded to extinguish the fire therein, in 1885; and thirdly, of making a trial on a small scale, of the cutting of coal by machinery at this colliery. The plant consists of an air compressor, having cylinders of 14 inches diameter, by 18 inches stroke; a multitubular boiler, three air receivers, about 2,569 yards of wrought iron air pipe, two small duplex pumps and two coal cutting machines. The compressor also supplies the power to a small winch, which by drawing up the tubs of coal from the deep places to the engine plane, does the work of three or four horses. The advantages of a motive power which can be successfully applied as a substitute for horses, at a distance of a mile from the shaft bottom, and which, at the same time, adds to the coolness and ventilation of the colliery, can scarcely be over-estimated. The coal cutting machines have been in operation only for a short time yet, but they seem to promise satisfactory results.

A small quick-running engine and two tubular boilers were procured and placed at Queen pit, for working the Murphy 10-foot diameter ventilating fan, which was set up there during the previous year.

The efficiency of our Guibal 30-foot diameter fan has been increased this season, by the addition thereto of the anti-vibration shutter, imported from England for the purpose. New blades have recently been put on this fan, in November last.

About 1,400 lineal feet of the pitch pine sliding spears in the main winding shaft, which were getting worn, have been replaced by new.

The pit head frame and pulley legs at the pumping shaft, when the workmen are lowered into and raised from the mine, were failing; they have, this season, been replaced by new structures, made of pitch pine.

There being a scarcity of water for domestic purposes owing to the dryness of the season, in August we put down a borehole in the vicinity of Queen pit, to a feeder of good water known to be there. The hole is 5 inches in diameter and 155½ feet deep, and yields about 8 gallons of water per minute. This, with the other borehole put down during the previous summer near our old pit yard, will, it is confidently hoped, provide an ample supply of pure water for the use of our workmen and others during the driest seasons.

In the month of May 60 coal cars of six tons capacity each were purchased from the Dominion Coal Company; and to enable us to keep our railroad open during the winter months, a snow-plough has been provided.

Ten new cottages of improved design for our workmen have been constructed during the summer, and a good deal of work was done in repairing many of the workmen's houses which are getting old.

The superstructure and trestle work of our eastern pier, at the loading ground at North Sydney, has been replaced by new of increased height, and provided with new drop and shutes for shipping the coal. The approach to this pier over the public