

**CLAIM JUMPING CHICANERY.**

Reports come from the Grand Forks district of attempted claim jumping on a large scale, including, it is said, efforts made by a prominent public man, amongst others, as a result of a deliberate conspiracy to get the title of a valuable local mine expire—in which some of the conspirators are interested as members of a well-known company. The idea has been, so it is said, to allow the time for the company's taking out of its \$100 miner's license to lapse and then jump its claims. Like manoeuvres are said to have been planned in the cases of other companies. The statute law on the subject appears to be somewhat vague, but if the legislation allows a company's claim to be "jumped" at short notice by reason of brief delay in taking out the new \$100 license, the MINING CRITIC is bound to say that the circumstance amounts to a disgraceful scandal, which the Provincial Government should, at any and all costs, end by the promptest preventive action.

It would be quite right to secure payment of the \$100 license fee by making it, in the case of delay, a first charge on the company's property with high interest, and to suffer non-payment after due official notice and a fair time of redemption given, to entail forfeiture of mine property rights, but, beyond this, no such legislation should go. Indeed, the MINING CRITIC hesitates to believe that the alleged Grand Forks claim jumping manoeuvres can find shelter under the Province's mine company code. Nor can the MINING CRITIC believe, in the absence of more than a brief sensational despatch, that any prominent local man in office can, as alleged, have become a claim jumper, conspirator. Such action would in Eastern Canada and the "Old Country" ensure a prompt expulsion of the disgraced offender from public life and this rightly. But as already said, the MINING CRITIC will not believe, until absolute proof is to hand, that what is alleged has happened and this under the shelter of the law.

**A BIG UNDERTAKING.**

The works of the West Kootenay Power & Light Co., Ltd., at Middle Falls, beyond Robson, are in active progress towards completion as a result of a large outlay of British capital that will ultimately run into several hundred thousand dollars. The primary object of the undertaking is to supply the Centre Star mine at Rossland with electric power and light and thus aid the hoped for conversion of that mine into a second Le Roi. But the Power & Light Co., expects also to supply many other mines about Trail Creek with light and power, so, too, certain districts with public electric lighting, as the directorate of the Company expects ultimately

**A GOODLY YIELD.**

It is stated that 170 companies operating in the Trail Creek district have taken out the requisite miners' licenses at \$100 each and five others being capitalised low at the reduced rate of \$50. Thus the Trail Creek district has under this levy contributed no less than \$17,250 towards the Provincial Treasury. There should be some good return for this in road and other improvement work in the extra-municipal area of the Trail Creek district.

**A GOOD RESULT OF LEGISLATION**

Whilst some Americans interested in B.C. mines are indulging, as noted in our editorial columns in "blue ruin" talk, as to the results on their investments of the recent changes in the Province's mine company laws, Mr. Harry White, of Rossland, once the well-known Mayor of Seattle, and now manager of the Fourteen Gold Mining Consolidated Company, operating in the Trail Creek district, practically admits that the change, which he, nevertheless, slightly depreciates, will do good. He states that the change of law will result in a consolidation of small companies and company interests, similar to that effected by his own company, when there will be not only economy of office management, but in road building, survey and development work, which can be done on the best showings found within an enlarged area.

**GOOD NEWS FOR NELSON.**

The best of news has within the last few days reached Nelson, now certain, without booming, to become a very solid mine town and centre of West Kootenay, and in all probability the chief distributing centre of a wide adjoining region. The C.P.R. will make the City in connection with the Crow's Nest extension—for long and more easterly sections of which construction tenders are now being called—its divisional point for West Kootenay. This means the conversion of Nelson into a very important railroad centre and implies also the local employment of large numbers of skilled engineering industrialists. Then the Hall Mines are now making a steady output of 200 tons of ore per diem, whilst the attached smelter and refinery are doing excellent work and in particular producing high grade blister copper, which is sent for final treatment to Swansea. Naturally, under these circumstances, there was great enthusiasm displayed the other day over the first trainload of six cars containing 150 tons of copper, which went off by the C.P.R. in cars, labelled large, that all the world might see the record, "The first copper shipped from British Columbia."

If you wish to secure the most reliable.

**IN THE FAR NORTH-EAST.**

A big party of mine workers, who recently took out 55 free-miners' certificates at Barkersville, is now busy at work along the banks of the Fludlay River near its junction with the Peace River, where in the early sixties there were good placer workings. The party means business on a large scale in this region, more than 600 miles north of Ashcroft, having, it is stated, staked out 80 miles of river front. The area of British Columbia's precious metal fields continues to extend northwards.

**IN THE SLOCAN.**

This country continues to make a big and increasing record of output of high grade galena and other ores. Amongst the larger producers the Ruth and Payne mines keep well in the front rank, the Ruth making an output of 35 tons a day of high grade galena and the Payne one of 40 tons.

**STEADILY GROWING.**

The year's shipments of West Kootenay ores and matte now amount to well over \$3,800,000, and are now certain within the next two months to show big further advances.

**PROSPECTOR'S OUTFIT.**

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|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Compass            | Horn for panning               |
| Magnifying glass   | 22 calibre rifle               |
| Map of country     | 25 pound flour                 |
| Note book & pencil | 1 pound tea                    |
| Pair of blankets   | 5 pounds bacon                 |
| Small tent         | Frying pan                     |
| Small axe          | Cup, small tin pail            |
| Poll pick          | Hunting knife                  |
|                    | Matches, salt, soap and towel. |

**MINING TERMS.**

- Adit—A tunnel from daylight along a vein.
- Apex—The edge of a vein nearest the surface.
- Argentiferous—Containing silver.
- Assay—To test ores by chemical or blow pipe examination.
- Auriferous—Containing gold.
- Bed rock—Solid rock underlying surface formation.
- Bullion—Uncoined gold and silver.
- Capping—The country rock by which a vein is pinched at the surface.
- Carbonates—Decomposed ore or ore containing large proportions of carbonate of lead or silver.
- Chlorides—Ores containing chlorides of silver.
- Chute—A shaft or an inclined trough, used for "shooting" ore down by gravity.
- Contact vein—A vein lying between two dissimilar rock masses or strata.
- Country rock—General rock masses in which veins are found.