

Mining News

The Molly Gibson Mining Company is pushing the work on the construction of the wagon road which is to open communication between the mine and the west arm of Kootenay lake, at a point 12 miles from Nelson. There remains something over two miles of the road to complete, and with a crew of 40 men at work, it is expected that the road will be through by the end of November. In the mine itself a force of 22 men is employed on development. No ore is being taken out, save such as is met with in development, but a shipment of some 200 tons is sacked for moving as soon as the road is completed.

Slocan Mineral Fleet.
Last week the Jackson shipped 65 tons of ore.

The force on the Noonday is to be increased and shipments resumed.

The Bossun made a shipment of 20 tons of zinc ore to England last week.

Work is being pushed ahead on the Hartney. There is eight tons of ore on the dump.

Two inches of clean ore is showing in the breast of the new workings on the Hartney.

Considerable prospecting has been done this season on Wilson creek, with the usual success.

The crosscut tunnel on the Ruby has been driven 55 feet. Four men are employed on the property.

A. J. Marks is inspecting the California shaft. Recent developments are proving very satisfactory.

W. W. Warner has taken a contract for 400 feet of tunnel and 200 feet of upraise to be driven on the Madison.

Work will be resumed next week on the Sarah Jane, one of the claims of the neglected group, owned by New Denver.

A crosscut tunnel is being driven to the Mollie Hughes to tap the ledge some distance below the workings driven on the lead. In the upper workings ore is showing all the distance of the tunnel, something like 100 feet.—New Denver Ledger.

The Boundary Country.
The compressor plant was started last week on the Snowshoe. It is of five-hundred capacity.

Drifting in the Mother Lode, Deadwood camp, at a depth of 285 feet, is said to be greatly improving in value.

Mr. W. L. Hogz, of Montreal, has bonded the Calumet and Hecla group, comprising the Calumet, Hecla, Hilltop, Hilltop fraction, El Rio, Beaver, Glenora and Key West claims. Mr. Hogz has stated his intention to push work vigorously, and to endeavor to pick up one of the Winnipeg leads.

James Henderson, of New York, a leading shareholder in the British Columbia Copper Company, which owns the Mother Lode, has organized the No. 7 Mining Company under the laws of West Virginia to operate the No. 7 and other claims in General camp. On the No. 7 is a 150-foot shaft, the bottom of which are 450 feet of drifts and crosscuts. The principal values are in gold and silver. The lead on the surface has been opened by means of open cuts for a distance of 700 feet. A mining plant has been ordered, and it is hoped to place the property on a shipping basis at an early date.

A force of men is now working on the Crescent in Skylark camp under the superintendence of J. M. Burke. A shaft has been sunk on the property to a depth of 75 feet, and crosscutting is being done from that level. There are two leads on the Crescent, one of which is high grade, running as high as \$125 to the ton in all values. The crosscut has been run 30 feet, and is expected to tap the smaller of the leads at about 40 feet.

The buildings on the War Eagle, Greenwood camp, were commenced last week, and the machinery will be installed as soon as the buildings are ready.

The three mines—the War Eagle, Goldconda and Euckhorn—will be developed under the superintendence of Captain Shields, who is now in charge of work on the Minnehaha in Camp McKinney. Active development will be commenced on all these properties in a few weeks.

The drift in the Oro Denoro, which is now in about 80 feet, has recently run into the most striking body of ore that has yet been exposed in the Boundary Creek country. The whole face of the drift is in solid copper ore. A large drift was taken to Elholt by Mr. O'Neill, and it created considerable excitement among railway men who have extensively purchased King Mining Company shares. There does not appear to be an inch of waste in the whole face of the drift. The ore is similar in character to that already found on the Oro Denoro, giving good gold values, and containing high iron.

This drift will be three or three other ledges that can be traced on the surface.

Ymir Camp.
The Good Hope mineral claim, on Wild Horse creek, about six miles from Ymir, has been taken over by capitalists.

The Blackcock mine is about to start work. The management intend to begin operations in about two or three weeks with a force of seven or eight men, and will push the work forward all winter, taking on more men as required.

The Ymir mine has succeeded in securing 22 men from the outside. The objectionless claim they have 57 men now at work in the mine, and producing sufficient ore to keep the 10-stamp mill running continuously. As the mill treats in the neighborhood of 100 tons a day, the Ymir should ship \$30,000 in bullion, ore and concentrates this month.

Work is being vigorously pushed on the Tamarac. In September there were 226 feet of work done in the mine, as against 126 feet for the preceding month. At a point 300 feet from the bottom of the shaft in the north drift an upraise has been started, which will be driven to the surface for the purpose of exploring the vein, and so as to furnish air. At the same time a winze will be driven down on the vein at this point for the purpose of exploring the vein at depth.

Manager Phil. White of the Wilcox

has a force of men at the property getting everything into shape for the winter months, as work is to be pushed vigorously all winter. A rich strike was made last week on No. 2 tunnel, showing up a large body of ore, giving good values. This tunnel will be run 300 feet to tap the ledge on the Fourth of July. It is now in 350 feet, and a contract for the remaining 550 feet will be let the first of the month.

Lardeau-Duncan.
The force of men now at the Tower exceeds 12 men. Work on this claim will be vigorously prosecuted during the winter. The smelter business transaction directly benefits the city, as the country becomes developed, and the smelter is enlarged and brings the business of the mines in the surrounding camps in the city, it will be impossible to think the advantage of the smelter will be to the city.—Boundary Creek Times.

Grand Forks Notes.
F. M. Chaburn, ore buyer for the Hall Mines smelter, Nelson, B. C., is in Grand Forks with the object of making contracts with mine owners. He is greatly impressed with the Boundary country and will visit the various camps.

Clarence J. McCuaig of Montreal, who floated the companies that acquired the War Eagle, Payne and Republic mines, is in Grand Forks, on the upper part of the Boundary camp. He naturally feels elated at the magnitude and richness of the ore bodies recently opened up on the lower level of the Republic.

Mr. McCuaig visited the B. C. mine in Summit camp, with Major Leckie, manager of the Republic and the B. C. T. E. latter was purchased a year ago by Mr. McCuaig, James Ross and other Montrealers, and has now 11,000 tons of copper ore on the dump. Shipments will be made to the smelter.

The stock will not be offered to the public until the B. C. is a dividend payer.

Major R. G. Edwards Leckie recently bonded the Yankee Boy and Yankee Girl, a group of properties situated on Hardy mountain, about five miles from Grand Forks. He states that the return from a shipment of two carloads of ore to the Trail smelter was very satisfactory. The development work is being carried out on an extensive scale.

Ordering Plants.
Mr. Frank R. McDonald, agent for the Jencks Machine Company, has returned to Rossland from a visit to the Boundary creek section. In reply to queries he said that the entire section to the west is looking well. The people there are now in an enthusiastic frame of mind over the prospecting done next week, and the prospects of spurs to many mining properties there. The demand for machinery there is very great. While in that section Mr. McDonald sold to the Jewell mine a four-drill compressor plant with all the necessary equipment. To the Bonanza Mountain Company, of Bonanza mountain, on the north fork of the Kettle river, he disposed of a 30-horse power boiler, hoist and pump; to the Kamloops Mining Company, of Camp McKinney, a 30-horse power hoist and a sinking pump; to the Ernest Spragett Sawmill Company, of Grand Forks, a 60-horse power boiler, to reinforce a plant that is already large.

Silverton Properties.
Another Red Mountain property is to be prospected and at least one of its immense gold copper veins. The property deal has been consummated by which the Rockland and Rustler claims have been turned over to one of the strongest mining syndicates operating in the province, and this company has already made arrangements for the development of the property.

The Rockland and Rustler claims are situated on Red Mountain, near the head of Eight Mile creek, and about six miles from Silverton, with which place they are connected by a good pack trail.

The Theo Gold-Copper Mines, Limited, has taken over the Copper Crown and Excess mineral claims, situated in Isadore Canyon about five miles from Fort Steele on the railway. The shaft is now down 65 feet, and the ore, which carries gold and copper, is said to be 200 per cent. better at that depth than on the surface.

The new tunnel in the Chickamoon Stone to crosscut the ledge is now in 285 feet, and it is expected to tap the main ledge within 40 feet. This will give much greater depth than the old tunnel which was run in the vein. The force has not yet been increased, but work is going ahead rapidly with the number of men now employed.

Forty Miners Quit Work.
Owing to the refusal by the management to pay \$3.50 a day, seventeen miners quit work at the Athabasca mine, two and a half miles south of Nelson, on Thursday. There was also difficulty at the Silver King mine over the rate of pay for working in a wet shaft. The men wanted \$4 a day, and the management were unwilling to pay more than \$3.50. The men working in the shaft quit, and the others that were asked to take their places on refusing, were discharged. In all, twenty-six men came down the hill. All the men are not members of the union, but all are alike firm in the determination to stand out for the scale of wages that is now recognized as the "Kootenay Standard," namely, \$3.50 for miners and \$3 for muckers or carmen, and 50 cents a day extra for work in wet shafts or tunnels.—Nelson Tribune.

Greenwood Smelter.
During the past month over \$4,500 was paid out by the British Columbia Copper Company, Limited, in wages to miners working on the smelter site. Judging from appearances they gave good value for the money. A box and solid retaining wall for blast furnaces, blow house and engine house has been built; the foundation for sample mill has been laid and the excavation for the upper ore bins has been started. The lumber is being hauled to the site for store houses, boiler house, blow house and carpenter shops.

The work is not being rushed as Mr. Johnson has fixed a time for its completion. Early next spring he will have a 300-ton furnace ready and will build other furnaces as rapidly as the increase output of ore warrants.

A glance at the business done by a smelter will convince any one that directly and indirectly it will be the most important factor in making Greenwood a great business city. Its close relation with mining operations will centralize business here. To-day the construction of the smelter adds

to the pay roll of the city nearly \$5,000 a month. The greater portion of this is spent in the city and consequently the value of the city is being increased by that amount. But when the smelter is running full blast, the business it will do will be very large indeed. With a 300-ton furnace the pay roll will amount to between \$7,000 and \$8,000 a month, or \$20,000 and \$25,000 a year will be paid to the railway for transportation. The ore treated will represent at least \$125,000 a month. Now all this money will be interchanged right in Greenwood through the Greenwood banks. Every business transaction directly benefits the city, as the country becomes developed, and the smelter is enlarged and brings the business of the mines in the surrounding camps in the city, it will be impossible to think the advantage of the smelter will be to the city.—Boundary Creek Times.

Provincial News

COLUMBIA.
The Bulling tunnel, on the line between Robson and Columbia, is being pushed forward to completion at a very satisfactory rate. During the past month 200 feet of rock was removed at the eastern end and 80 feet at the western end. Connection should be made by February next and all work completed some time in March. At present the track passes over the tunnel, a series of switchbacks serving as temporary means of access to the Burnt Valley on the western side of the tunnel.

Mr. G. O. Buchanan, Kaslo's lumberman, has perfected the organization of a lumber syndicate. A capital of \$1,000,000 is said to be behind the enterprise.

Mr. J. A. McCallum, city clerk, is organizing a debating society.

The Rev. R. W. Trotter, of the Baptist denomination, is preparing to build a chapel. The first church in the valley was built in Columbia by the Presbyterians, though it has been used freely by other denominations.

NEW WESTMINSTER.
Captain J. H. Maclean, who, during the past season, was master of the steamer Philip J. Low, on the upper part of the Boundary, arrived in the city on Wednesday, but went east on the Atlantic express, bound for Chatham, Ont., where he will spend the winter.

Ex-Ald. A. M. Herring returned on Tuesday from an extended trip through the Kootenay, Lytton, Yale, Sawish and Ruby creek mines, where he has been looking after his several mining interests. He reports considerable activity on Sawish and Ruby creeks, in Yale district. On the former creek a number of men are at present mining and making good wages. One company is changing the course of the creek for a considerable distance, with the object of working the bottom, which is undoubtedly very rich.

Captain Pittendrieh, S.M., was informed on Wednesday morning of a circumstance which may have to be threshed out before him in the district court, says the Columbian. A gentleman named Archibald Campbell, it appears, dropped his purse on the road near Cloverdale fortnight ago, and it was found next day, and the contents were taken to school, and subsequently, was handed over to the father of one of the children. The description of the purse and the contents tallies exactly with what Mr. Campbell says he lost, but when he demanded his property from the father he could get no satisfaction, being told it was given to another man living across the international boundary. The provincial police are now affixing the matter to Mr. T. Ackerman, the nine year old nephew of Mr. T. Ackerman, went through the ordeal of parting with one of his legs on Monday. As the result of an illness the trouble settled in one leg, which became so serious that during the night work he brought from St. Mary's hospital. Latterly it became apparent that if the boy's life was to be saved, the affected member must be amputated. The operation was successful, though the young patient is naturally very weak, he seems to be picking up.

VANCOUVER.
On Tuesday Coroner McGuigan went out to Steveston to hold an inquest on the body of a Japanese man that had been found floating in the water. The verdict of "found drowned" was returned. On Wednesday the body was identified as that of N. Hushimoto who was reported to have been drowned by the upsetting of his fishing boat over a month ago.

The news of the death of Mrs. Bennett, beloved wife of Major Bennett, a popular officer of the local battalion, was heard with sincere regret in all parts of the city on Wednesday afternoon. The sad occurrence took place at the direct result of an injury received by the deceased lady nearly a month ago, due to a fall from her wheel. At first it was thought that a bad bruise to the knee would be the only result, but unfortunately the jar to the lower limbs appears to have affected the whole system and culminated in fatal cerebral congestion.

Contractor Martin Kelly has the first scowload of stone at the Granville street bridge, False creek, for the new pier.

At the Anglican Synod for Westminster diocese it was decided by a unanimous vote to divide the diocese into two parts, the Kootenay, Okanagan and Boundary portions, and naming them the diocese of Kootenay, the Rev. Hugh Allen was elected clerical secretary, and Mr. J. G. C. Wood-lay secretary. The synod has passed canons providing for the raising and investing of a clergy widow's and orphan's fund, and also a superannuation fund.

The committee of the Diocesan Synod of New Westminster passed at its meeting on Wednesday on the proposal of the Rev. L. Norman Tucker, M.A., seconded by the Hon. T. Mayne Daly, Q.C., the following resolution concerning the war in South Africa:

"Resolved, that, while regretting the sad necessity of war, as members of this synod, we desire, at this crisis, to give expression to our unalterable devotion and loyalty to the cause of the Mother Land; our sincere satisfaction that our brethren in Canada have gone to the front to assist in protecting the rights and interests of our common Empire; our deepest sympathy with the families of those who have fallen in battle and with those who have been taken captive; and our earnest prayer that God will richly bless every soldier, and the evils of a long and bloody war, and that freedom and justice may soon be established, on the best and surest foundations, throughout the whole of South Africa.

And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor-General of Canada and the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the Imperial Parliament."

The resolution was carried unanimously by a standing vote, the members joining also in singing the National Anthem.

SEAGRAM'S WHISKIES



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KIMBERLEY DIAMOND MINES.
Precious Stones Were First Located by Children—Largest Diamond Ever Discovered.

The discovery of diamonds in South Africa goes back only a little more than 30 years. One day in 1867 the children of a Boer family, who lived on a farm seven hours' ride west of Hopetown, on the bank of the Orange River, were playing with some stones they found in its bed.

An ostrich hunter named O'Reilly happened to pass and the Boer farmer, Van Niekerk, called his attention to an especially brilliant stone that a Griqua boy had found. O'Reilly was startled. He scratched on a pane of glass with the stone and immediately decided that he had a diamond in his hand. He promised the Boer half of whatever he proved to be worth, and wanted to follow up the search at once.

After many wanderings he went to an English physician, in Graham's Town, a Dr. Atherstone, who was the first to recognize the great value of his "find." He recognized it as a diamond in a moment, and estimated its weight at 21.3-16 carats. A little later this stone was sold to Sir Philip Wodehouse, then governor of Cape Colony, for \$2,500. O'Reilly soon brought another stone from the same locality, which weighed 8.7-8 carats, and it was sold to the same person for \$1,000. One of the most beautiful of the South African diamonds later came from Van Niekerk's farm on Orange River, the so-called "Star of South Africa," weighing 834 carats, found by a Kaffir. The brilliant later cut therefrom came into the possession of the Earl of Dudley for \$125,000.

Inrush of Miners.
Immediately after the first report of these discoveries the Orange River was crowded with white, black and yellow Europeans, Kaffirs and Hottentots, and there they succeeded in finding a few diamonds. Thence the search spread to the bed of the River Vaal, and here, on the property of the Berlin Missionary Society, at Paniel, camps were pitched and the work began in earnest.

In 1870 new diamond diggings were discovered, again by children, playing with stones. This was not on the banks of the river, but on the high table land where their existence had not been suspected. It was on the farm of Du Toits Pan, between the Vaal and the Modder Rivers. It was in the mud which had been used to build his house that the children saw a shining object, and dug out a diamond. In pulling up a plant another child found a diamond weighing eighty carats clinging to the roots.

The richest mine of all, however, was found in July, 1871, on the Kolesberg-Kopje. The old mines were abandoned, and then came De Beers New Rush. The owner of Kimberley, a man who had been in the neighborhood of this mine, being named after the British colonial secretary at that time, Lord Kimberley, and the mine was known as the Kimberley mine. Later some small diggings were found in the Orange Free State, Kossidfontein and Jagersfontein, from which some of the diamonds of the first water have since been taken.

Dispute Over Ownership.
The confusion and disorder of the frenzied fortune hunters was tremendous, and political confusion followed in the claim of the Orange Free State to Kimberley and the mines around it. The British government held that this was British territory, and to make its claim good purchased the claim of an old Griqua chief to this land.

The British refused the matter for arbitration. The decision was in favor of Great Britain, and, owing to a huge rush, thousands of miners had come into the country. The Free State protested against the decision in vain, for England claimed that its power was superior to that of the Orange Free State, and the Free State was obliged to accept \$450,000 for its claim.

Several of the wiser miners began to combine for the formation of companies to purchase machinery that they might go to the deeper levels where the famous "blue ground" lay filled with diamonds. By 1885 many of these companies were at work, and then a further combination of their interests took place in the formation of the De Beers Consolidated Company, Limited. The moving spirits in this combination were the redoubtable Barney Barnato and Cecil Rhodes.

Under the able management of the latter, this company now pays a dividend of ten millions a year, on a nominal capital of twenty millions.

The latest improvements in mine machinery have been of course adopted, and the best engineers are now engaged in conceiving the work. The "yellow earth" of the surface, in which the early prospectors found their wealth has been dug through and the "blue ground" is being worked to unprecedented depths. This peculiar formation appears to be practically inexhaustible, for soundings have never been able to get beyond it.

Methods of Mining.
Nowhere else on earth is this peculiar blue quartz to be found, so it has been called Kimberlite. It is very hard, but alters and softens under moisture and air. The miners have taken advantage of this, and the large companies haul the

blue ground to the surface and spread it out to disintegrate naturally. It is spread out on the floors surrounded by armed guards night and day, and there it is first harrowed by two engines some 300 yards apart, dragging the harrows over it.

There it stays for six months or a year, and is then sent to the crushing works, where it is washed and rolled by machinery until every bit of foreign matter has been removed, and the diamonds alone remain. Some bits that do not pulverize under the harrow are called hard blue, are picked out by hand and carefully treated separately, for large stones are sometimes in these hard masses of rock.

The work in the mines is done chiefly by Kaffirs, who wield the drills and use the dynamite for the blasting with little inconvenience. They are engaged for a specified number of weeks, during which they are kept in a well-guarded compound, fed, and if ill, treated by the company. Only at the end of their term of service are they paid and permitted to leave, when they return with what seems to them untold wealth, to buy a wife and set up housekeeping in their home, some weeks' journey away.

All kinds of precautions are taken to prevent them from stealing diamonds which they find while at work. As each man leaves the mine he must strip to the skin and submit to a search of mouth, ears and nose. Even if he were to swallow a diamond he would be caught. The companies try to prevent stealing by offering premiums for the finding of large stones, but, strange to say, all of the precautions have not prevented the largest diamonds from reaching the market through private persons.

The diggings at Kimberley have done much to explain the formation of the diamond itself, for kimberlite is recognized by all authorities, as being of eruptive origin, the diamond in it must have been formed by the tremendous heat generated at the time of the eruption. In fact, the mines look like chimneys, or "pipes," as they are called, the blue ground running down toward the centre of the earth like a huge water pipe.

Depth of the Mines.
The depth of the mines is very great, a level in the Kimberley mine being 1,250 feet down, and in the De Beers 1,200 feet. Most of the mining is now done underground by galleries running to the central shaft. This prevents many accidents, and is a great economy in space and time. To give some idea of the amount of work done in these mines, at the De Beers, during twelve working days in November, 1897, eight and three-quarter tons of dynamite, 65,100 feet (twelve and one-third miles) of fuse and 32,500 fuse caps were used. This mine never yields less than 900 pounds of diamonds annually, washing 2,400,000 tons of blue ground for them.

The sorting of the stones is an art and science in one. Good eyes and judgment are necessary. Here are found some with deep tints of brown, pink and yellow, which are most valuable, being classified as fancy stones. These with light shades are least valuable, and the pure white rank next.

The largest diamond ever found in the world was discovered here in 1893, and is known as Excelsior. It weighed 919 1/4 carats, and was discovered at Jagersfontein. It far surpassed the De Beers, found some time before, which only weighed 423 1/2 carats, yet was quite a diamond itself.

THE COMPANION FOR THE REST OF 1899.
During the remaining weeks of 1899 The Youth's Companion will maintain its fresh and varied interest for young and old by presenting articles from the pens of eminent men and women and stories by the most gifted writers of fiction.

Among these contributors will be Frank R. Stockton, who presents a droll story, "The Wolf and the Wheelbarrow"; James Bryce, author of "The American Commonwealth," who offers "Hints on Reading"; W. D. Howells and Jane Barlow, each of whom contributes a serial story; Bret Harte, who recalls an early California experience in "How I Went the Mines"; Mary E. Walker, who tells of "Serenity Maria at School"; and Henry M. Stanley, who under the title, "For Life and Liberty," relates a thrilling adventure of his travels in Darkest Africa.

The November and December numbers containing these festive articles are given to every new subscriber for the 1899 volume free from the time subscription is received, in addition to the Companion's exquisite calendar for 1900—the last calendar of the century and the most beautiful one ever given to Companion subscribers.

Illustrated Announcement Number containing a full prospectus of the volume for 1900, will be sent free to any address.

THE YOUTH'S COMPANION.
203 Columbus Avenue, Boston, Mass.

John Cavanaugh and five others, charged with the death of "Kid" Lavelle, who died from injuries received in a prize fight with Cavanaugh at Homestead last April, were yesterday found not guilty. The costs were imposed on the defendants.