

the richest pay-streak of that mine, and this explained the affair.

We are at last to have direct wagon road communication with Keremeos, and about the middle of May construction work will commence, and be pushed as vigorously as Mr. C— knows how. In the Keremeos and Similkameen valleys, there are a great number of mineral claims located, and many of these are being thoroughly prospected. In many places large surface deposits of hornblend, carrying a large percentage of native copper, have been discovered, and there seems to be a bright future before this camp. A townsite has been laid out near the junction of the two valleys, and already we hear of stores and dwelling houses that are to be erected there.

RICARDO.

FROM NELSON.

MR. KELLIE'S "Truck Act," is meeting with great opposition in this country. There is, of course, no question that the system has been abused, and labourers of different kinds have met with much hardship under it, but to condemn good and bad alike in one sweeping

measure, hardly seems to be a good policy. The boarding houses attached to the various mines, are as a rule, well run, the men being provided with ample food and lodging for about five or six dollars a week, a small sum out of their earnings, which run from fifteen to twenty. Large concerns like the Hall Mines know that it is to their benefit to make their

men comfortable, and their boarding houses are excellently managed. Most of the mines are in inaccessible places, and if the owners are prevented from running a boarding house, the business will fall into the hands of contractors, whose only ambition will be to squeeze the last dollar out of the men's pockets.

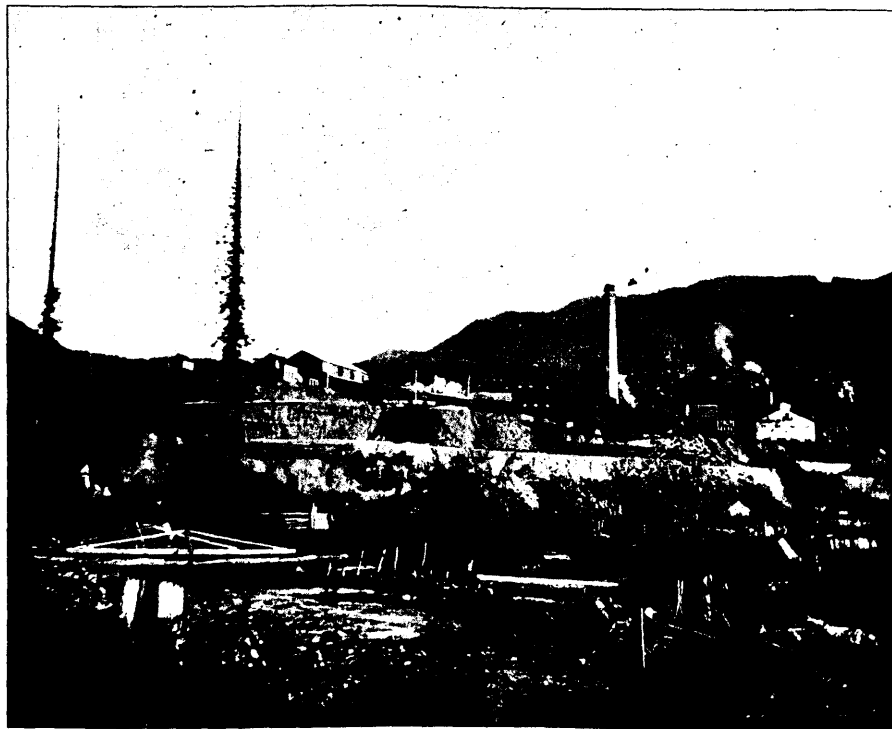
Mr. G. O. Buchanan goes as a delegate of the Kaslo Board of Trade, to urge the Dominion Government at Ottawa to put a duty on lead and lead products that will be sufficient to keep out the American article and encourage the smelting of lead ores in Canada. To attempt to argue with people bred and born in a hotbed of protection, is worse than battling with

the wind. They are so rabid that they do not accord their adversary the usual courtesies of debate, but reply solely with abuse and ridicule. However, the Government is scarcely likely to accede to their demands, but if it does what is to become of the surplus product after Canada has taken all she can use. The advocates of a duty talk glibly of a Chinese market, and other outlets in Asia; but they will find that to divert the course of trade and obtain a dumping-ground for its products, is not quite such an easy task.

The Noble Five mine is on its feet again, under the control of Mr. James Dunsmuir, the new President of the Company. It is generally admitted that the mine suffered from mismanagement after its incorporation as much as it did before, and it will take time and money to put it on a good working basis again.

The Slocan Star is at work again, and so is the Dardanelles, whence a fine strike of rich ore is reported. The Athabasca, just above Nelson, has, it is stated, passed into the hands of an English syndicate. There are four claims in the property, with three distinct leads. Some of the ore has been reduced at the Hall Mines smelter, with results of about \$80 a

ton. It works very well with the Silver King ore. A rich pocket was found in the Juno, which is just above the Athabasca. All over the mountain on which these claims are situated there are reefs of quartz with more or less free gold in them. Usually they are small, but there are so many that some day it is expected the main reef of which they are stringers, will be discovered.



THE HALL MINES SMELTER.

We are not quite satisfied with the Government's new Redistribution Bill. Rossland gets a member under it and so does East Kootenay, but Nelson and the Slocan are still in one, and their development is probably greater than either of the other districts.

The shipments of minerals up to date for the year 1898, amount to \$3,090,085.

PICK.

THE MONTH'S MINING—A SUMMARY.

ALBERNI.

Nothing of particular interest has been heard from this district during the month, with the regrettable exception, perhaps, that the negotiations for the sale of the Alberni Consolidated failed to materialize. It is understood, however, that another deal is in progress for the bonding of this undoubtedly prom-