

THE MINING REVIEW

WILL CHRONICLE FULLY AND FAIRLY THE

Mining News of Trail Creek District

and British Columbia Generally.

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SAMPLING AND ASSAYING.

In order to work profitably and intelligently the great majority of mines, constant sampling is needed at all working faces which are not in a hoplessly barren country. There are a great many gold and silver mines in which the vein filling or the material forming the deposit does not show to the eye whether it is pay or too low to be worth taking out. This is especially true of wide deposits of low average grade, considered in mass. It is too often the custom in stopping out ore bodies of this class to send to the surface everything between walls and then to mill or ship it, after perhaps a little hand sorting. This no doubt saves trouble, and any loss from the practice is generally concealed, the real ore standing the brunt of the general average. In the old days of Comstock it was the custom to handle ore in bulk in this way, lots of sugar quartz away below the paying limit, and at times plenty of indubitable country rock, also going to mill especially if the directors were interested in the mill company or somebody got a commission per ton on ore milled. The same thing is often done honestly, but inexcusably. So long as the whole lot shows a profit in the mill, it looks satisfactory.

It not seldom happens that the miners do not know very definitely what particular streaks of spots the pay really comes from, the ore minerals being obscure masked by base mineral, or too finely disseminated in the gangue. In such cases hand-sorting is a rather happy-go-lucky operation, though assaying of each of the different kinds of rock handled would be a guide. The trouble grows if it is attempted to make more than one class of ore.

Again, in drifting in vein matter showing very little ore and known or supposed to be barren for all practical purposes, constant sampling and assaying are very necessary—and very seldom attended to; everything going by sight, whereas approach to a pay-shoot is often indicated by imperceptible improvement. There are extreme cases, as in some in preg-nation districts and irregular limestone-porphry regions, where close assaying in even the country rock gives valuable indications in underground prospecting.

RICH ORE ON THE DEER PARK.

A remarkable find of rich ore has been made on the Deer Park. The Deer Park is comparatively speaking an old location having been made by Sam Creston and L. Mulholland when there was plenty of vacant ground on Red Mountain. Sam was never happy unless he was trading off interests for a few hundred dollars. The result is that L. Mulholland is one of the warmest men in Trail Creek today, while Sam having been forced by circumstances over which he had no control into receiving a fair sum of money for the St. Elmo which the same two owned in partnership, retired to his native land of Denmark where he lives at his ease. He always had more faith in the Deer Park than in the St. Elmo, although the, at that time, superior location of the latter made it bring a fair price when the Deer Park must needs have been sold for next to nothing. Although the St. Elmo is a good property recent developments seem to have justified the confidence which the locators placed in the Deer Park. During the fall and winter of 1895 the Deer Park was under bond to Messrs. Finch and Campbell. They did some prospecting on it with a diamond drill, the first used in Trail Creek, but struck nothing and threw up the bond. After the bond expired the property was taken hold of by Spokane parties and stocked for one million dollars, L. Mulholland however remaining the heaviest individual stockholder. The first issue of stock was placed on the local market at 3½ cents and will from now on record as sensational advance as the Le Roi. The mine has been under steady development superintended by E. J. Kelly, during the summer, and the shaft is now down 86 feet. The discovery of pay ore was made the end of last week and the mysterious and sudden disappearance of Deer Park which was offered as low as 5 cents ten days ago was the result. The shaft is all in ore and five samples assay from the bottom give returns of \$28, \$4, \$10, \$2 and \$100 respectively. Mr. Kelly makes the following statement about the property: "The shaft is all in ore, but the ore is not all shipping ore. There are a few seams of ore, making about seven inches in all, which

is very high grade, equal and similar in appearance to the best ore in the Evening Star. Every thing taken out of the shaft will not pay to ship, but the ore that will can be separated and shipped quite easily. The Deer Park is a shipping mine so far as grade and body of ore are concerned from now on." This is the most remarkable and encouraging development of which the Trail Creek district can yet boast.

IS ELECTRIC SMELTING POSSIBLE?

Undoubtedly the separation of the different elements in ore by electricity is possible. The question of its practicability is going to be tested in Rossland. A small electric plant for the sampling and assaying of ores is to be established here with a view of determining the success of an electric process by which its promoters claim they can treat Trail Creek ores for \$3 a ton. The process is simplicity itself. It separates the metallic constituents of the ore and a further process recombines the gold, silver and copper in bulk, but separate from one another. If there is anything in this process it desulphurises, smelts and refines the bullion all at one and the same time. The advantages are numerous. There is an immense saving in cost. Power can be easily transmitted from the nearest available source. Our crying need of cheap fuel would be done away with. Whether the particular process to be experimented on in Rossland is a success or not it is in this direction scientific metallurgy is groping, and some day the great discovery will be made.

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