

"Orow Point."—Commenced stripping, lead visible, but not followed for any distance.

"Champion."—Lower drift twenty feet into side of hill sixteen feet from surface; assay for 150 lbs. \$14 per ton. Price & Sons, San Francisco.

"Champion."—Upper drift on cut, lead 1.6 at surface 3.6 at ten feet; assay \$6 to \$1,400.

"Victoria and Alberni."—This lead appears to run through the "Missing Link" and into the "Alberni," thus showing that it is extensive.

"Jack Taylor."—No development.

"Belcher."—No development.

"Adelaide."—Stamping work now.

"Queen of Diamonds."—No development.

"Queen of Hearts."—No development.

These other claims without development:

"Missing Link."—Five cuts all showing quartz resembling "Alberni" and "Champion," in fact, openings indicate that the quartz in the immediate vicinity of the "Alberni" and "Champion" is heavily mineralized, and carries a large percentage of gold.

In conclusion I would say that I think the mineral claims in the Alberni District worth an exhaustive examination by the expert and capitalist.

#### THE ATTACK ON THE GOLDFIELDS COMPANY.

In our "Editorial Notes" we take ground against the attack on the Lillooet-Fraser River and Cariboo Goldfields Company because we consider it ill-timed and undeserved. It looks too much like an attempt to discredit British Columbia mining investments generally, and that, too, at a time when this province is looking for capital to develop the mines. There was not, in our opinion, sufficient reason for the violent attack of the *Saturday Review*, and its being accepted as a text by British Columbia papers to denounce an enterprise, formed for the good of the province, and which is as yet only in its infancy, is altogether inexplicable. It will be time enough to criticise unfavorably the promoters of the enterprise when they do something to warrant such a course. Out of a large number of papers in Great Britain and Europe containing comments on the formation of the Goldfields Company, the *Saturday Review* was the only one to publish an unfavorable opinion. Why is it, then, that the *Saturday Review* article is the only one quoted by the British Columbia critics of the company? To say the least of it this is most unfair—that only one (the hostile) side of the question should be presented to the British Columbia public.

It is evident the British people do not take much stock in the *Saturday Review* articles since the shares in the company have gone up in price. It is not our intention, however, to act as an exponent of the company's affairs. When the directors do anything to deserve condemnation we shall condemn, but at the present moment it is somewhat early in the day to criticise their actions. At a time when we are seeking English capital to develop our mines it is, to say the least of it, unfortunate that British Columbia newspapers should echo the violent attack of the *Saturday Review* simply because some of the British Columbians interested in the company are political opponents. There is no other view we can take of the matter.

The *MINING RECORD* will not hesitate, should occasion arise, to denounce any attempts to mislead investors, but in discussing the mining affairs of this province political or personal prejudices should not be allowed to play a part. They will not in our case.

#### Board of Trade Excursion to West Kootenay.

At the quarterly meeting of the British Columbia Board of Trade, held last month, in Victoria, the following report of the Board of Trade excursionists to West Kootenay was presented:

To the members of the British Columbia Board of Trade, Victoria:

GENTLEMEN.—Since the previous meeting of the Board, the members of the Board, whose names appear in a list appended hereto,

have visited Kootenay, and we now beg to report the information acquired and impressions received by them.

The tour included Trail, Nelson, Ainsworth, Kaslo and Slocan mining divisions, and the principal properties in each were inspected.

From Revelstoke south, the country traversed is mountainous, the higher summits exceeding 8,000 feet, upon which snow remains throughout the year. The timber line appears to be 7,000 feet above the sea; below this the growth is varied; in places, there is an abundance of well grown timber, whilst other parts are inferior in this respect, and some of the mountains are almost barren. Portions of the wooded area at high elevations are free of undergrowth and remarkably picturesque.

West Kootenay possesses many natural advantages, the most important of which are the navigable waters of the rivers and lakes, over 300 miles in length. On the Columbia River, a first-class steamship service is operated by the Columbia & Kootenay Navigation Company as a feeder to the Canadian Pacific Railway. On the Kootenay River and Lake, the same company has other steamers, connecting at Nelson with the Kootenay & Columbia Railway, operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway. At Bonner's Ferry, the steamers connect with the Great Northern Railway, thus giving the district competitive rates with the Canadian Pacific Railway and two American transcontinental railways. There are several other steamers plying on the lakes and rivers. Short lines of railways have been constructed to bring the products of the mines to these waterways, and to form a connection between the Columbia River and the Kootenay Lake. Considering how recently this country has been under development, it is well opened up.

The town of Rossland, situated ten miles north of the boundary, dates only from the early part of this year, and is now the headquarters and central trading point of the Trail division. Over 200 well-built frame houses, including stores and hotels, have been erected on the townsite, and the population in and adjacent thereto numbers approximately 2,000 souls.

The Cliff was the first mine visited, distant about fifteen minutes' ride from Rossland. The upper tunnel has been driven in 190 feet, and the ore averages \$35 per ton in gold and copper. Shipments have already commenced. Passing on to the Le Roi, we found extensive works in operation, upon which the sum of \$150,000 had been expended. The main shaft, from which the ore is taken, is down 375 feet, and the present output is 100 tons *per diem*. The average value of the ore is \$40 per ton in gold, silver, iron and copper. The vein is in no place less than six feet in width, and, in the lower levels, widens to thirty feet; the best ore yet found was taken from the bottom of the shaft. Eighty-five men are employed in connection with this mine, the miners and helpers being paid \$3.50 and \$3 per day, respectively. The ore costs to mine \$3 per ton; transportation by waggon to Northport, freight to the smelter and treatment, an additional \$13.50; it will thus be seen that there remains a good margin of profit, and at the date of our visit there was the sum of \$50,000 cash available for the payment of a dividend, this over and above the repayment of all outlay on the mine by sale of ore. The War Eagle adjoins the Le Roi, and the character and value of the ore are very similar to the last named. As this mine is referred to in the annual report, it is only necessary to state that another dividend of \$50,000 has since been declared, making a total of \$132,000 paid within six months. Ore has been shipped from other properties in this division, notably from the Josie; and much development work is progressing at all points. All around this centre the mountains are alive with prospectors and miners; 1,600 new claims have been recorded within the past six months and there is reason to believe that many of them, when developed, will reveal mineral in richness and quantity as great as any mine now in operation. Prior to 1890 very little was known of this division and the present activity is due to the recent development of the Le Roi and War Eagle mines, both of which have paid ever since work commenced on them. The fact that the veins of ore so far developed increase in width and richness with depth is an unmistakable indication of permanency. A smelter is being erected at Trail on the Columbia river, for the treatment of the ore of this district.

The next mine visited was the Poorman, on Eagle creek, near Nelson, where there is a ten-stamp mill in operation with a capacity of twenty tons per day. The ore averages about \$20 in gold per ton, the vein from which it is taken varying from ten inches to two feet in thickness. Other veins have been found on the claim and the development work has exposed a large quantity of ore rich in gold. The Silver King is situated 5,000 feet above, and, as the crow flies, is about four and a half miles from Nelson. Here ore is already in sight to an estimated value of \$3,000,000. Six hundred and forty tons shipped carried silver 116 ounces, copper 12 per cent, and gold \$2 per ton. The aerial tramway is nearly completed. It will connect the mine with a smelter now in course of erection at Nelson. There are several other rich mines on Toad Mountain, tributary to Nelson.