

# STEWART AND PORTLAND CANAL

## Notes of Much Discussed British Columbia Gold Regions.

The gold discoveries in Stewart, British Columbia, have stirred extraordinary interest thousands of miles from the camp. Facts, painted with a little Western fancy, have traversed the cable, and, according to return messages, have set agog Great Britain, Australia and South Africa. The beginning was a story about a gold reef twenty-five miles long, which was wild exaggeration. A promising discovery was magnified to that length and probably grew to fifty miles by the time it reached Australia. There may yet be discovered excellent gold properties at and around Stewart, but it is a country for the hardened prospector and not for the newly arrived immigrant, the city man or the investor. There is nothing to warrant the excitement abroad, which looks like an ill-concealed attempt to help transportation on real estate and other agencies to obtain business. Portland canal, which is the most northerly inlet on the Canadian coast, forms part of the boundary line between British Columbia and Alaska. Its length is a little less than 60 miles. About 10 miles up. Observatory inlet branches off. At the head of Portland canal, on a flat at the mouth of Bear River, the new mining camp of Stewart is being established. The claims are situated on Bear River and its tributaries, commencing about four miles up from tidewater at Stewart.

In 1899 the first claim (Roosevelt) was staked on Bitter Creek, a tributary of Bear River, by a prospector, who had gone into the head of Nass River by way of Portland Canal and Bear River. In 1902, Stewart's claim, on American Creek, was staked. In 1903, a Deputy Mining Recorder's office was established, and in that and the following year some locations were made. In 1905 and 1906, the principal claims on Glacier Creek were staked. In 1906, Mr. H. Carmichael, provincial assayer, made a report for the provincial mineralogist on this district. He visited it again last summer and his report describing the best known claims has been issued by the British Columbia provincial bureau of mines. In 1905, Mr. Fred Wright, while engaged in work for the United States geological survey in Alaska, made a geological examination of the upper part of Unuk River, which is in British Columbia, about 40 miles north of Stewart. His report on this section was kindly given to the Canadian Geological Survey, and was published in the summary report for 1905. As Bear River appears to belong to the same geological province, this report is of direct interest to miners and prospectors in Stewart.

The country is of the character which has become recognized as typical of south-eastern Alaska. The valley occupied by Portland Canal and Bear River is about a mile wide, flanked on either side by somewhat precipitous rising to a height of about 5,000 feet, with an occasional peak 1,000 or 2,000 feet higher. The canal is navigable to its head for boats of deep draught. Almost at the head of the canal Salmon River enters from the Alaska side, and between it and Bear River is a mountain ridge which the International Boundary follows for some distance.

Bear River has a gentle slope for the first 10 miles, giving an easy gradient for a road, beyond which it is said to rise more rapidly. Glacier Creek enters it from the east about 4 miles from the mouth, and Bitter Creek about 8 miles up, while American Creek enters from the north, about 12 miles up. The majority of the well-known claims are on Glacier Creek and American Creek.

The most promising rocks to prospect are those showing contact metamorphism, and in northern British Columbia, at least, the inland border of the granite is most likely to present this phenomenon, though it also occurs at a number of points along the coastal border. It must be understood that when the contact of the granite is recommended as a point to prospect, the immediate contact is not specially meant, but rather the bordering zone influenced by the intrusion.

Throughout its entire length, wherever the invaded, contact-metamorphosed rocks are exposed along the borders of the Coast Range batholith or occur as large inclusions in it, they will probably be found attractive to the prospector. Such areas are found in the Bear River camp, in the Unuk River district, 40 miles north, and probably in the country between. The geological examination of this field will probably show that the ore bodies owe their origin to the intrusion of the granite.

As it was not then possible to visit the claims, little can be said about them. Two classes of ore were exhibited at Stewart: quartzose ore, carrying silver, gold, and lead values, and a pyritic copper-gold ore. The persistence of the veins is noted by all, a succession of claims being located on what is said to be the same vein, traceable throughout. The quartzose ore contains galena, sometimes blende, and silver minerals,

such as argentite, and native silver. Pyrite is sometimes plentiful. The copper ore consists essentially of pyrite and chalcopyrite.

The Portland Canal Mining Company, on Glacier Creek, operating on a vein carrying gold-silver-lead values, has done the greatest amount of work. This is the first company to put in an aerial tram, and concentrator. The latter has a capacity of about 50 tons per day. The Stewart Mining and Development Company ranks next in development work. The ore is somewhat similar.

The ore of the Red Cliff, on American Creek, is a copper-gold one. Specimens from it look very promising, and the body is said to be large. A compressor plant is to be installed at this property.

Other properties well spoken of include the American Girl group and Montrose, on American Creek; Pasco and Independence, and Tyee, on Bear River; and the Little Wonder, Lake View, O.K., Fraction, Jumbo, Apex, Cook and Dobson, and Matheson claims on Glacier Creek.

Wharves are to be constructed, and arrangements have been made by men interested in Mackenzie, Mann & Company Limited, and in the Canadian Northern Railway Company, to build the "Portland Canal Short Line Railway" from Portland Canal up Bear River for a distance of 15 miles. These gentlemen are also directly interested in mining in the district, having bonded some properties on Bear River.

The Hidden Creek Copper Company mine at Goose Bay, Observatory inlet, is being actively developed. It is reported to have large bodies of pyrite and chalcopyrite, carrying 3 per cent. to 6 per cent. copper, with \$1 to \$3 in gold and silver. An 8-drill compressor, driven by water-power, has been installed, and plans have been made for a tram and electric railway for transporting the ore to tidewater.

### ONE OF THIS WEEK'S FINANCIAL DEALS.

Here is the story of an important monetary deal in Toronto this week—at least it was serious financing for two Toronto boys. A bicycle was the merchandise and six dollars the amount. This is one side of the agreement, duly executed, signed, stamped, thumb marked, and delivered.

*I promise to pay \$6 with due regard to any receipt*  
*Arthur M. and A. M.*  
 6-17-10  


On the other side, the legal phraseology reads:—"H. M. is selling his wheel to A. M. on pay of 15c. a week until \$6 is paid. Signed, etc., Arthur M. and A. M." When these lads get the legalities somewhat reorganized, and Time gives them a few more years, they should be able to figure in the consummation of one of our future industrial mergers.

The Pacific Coast Fire Insurance Company decided in November last to increase its capital stock from \$275,000 to \$500,000. It has now been decided to increase the capital to \$1,000,000 and to market the new issue immediately.

The number of companies doing fire insurance business in Canada is to be increased by the addition of the Royal Exchange Insurance Company. The head office for Canada will be at Montreal, and Mr. Arthur Barry is to be the manager. Mr. Barry has had long experience in fire insurance, having entered the North British Mercantile Company in 1887, and having subsequently served with the Phoenix of London. He has had over twelve years' experience as inspector, and is thoroughly posted in the life insurance business. The Royal Exchange Insurance Company is an English concern which was founded 100 years ago. It has a strong board, Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G., being governor, and there being associated Sir Charles Seymour Grenfell, sub-governor, and G. F. Malcolmson, deputy-governor. The determination to open an office in Canada was only arrived at after a trip of inspection throughout the Dominion had recently been made by Mr. S. P. Hiles.