

KOOTENAY COLUMBIA

The Third Level on This Great Mine Has Struck Pay Ore.

98 FT. BELOW BIG TUNNEL

When Under the Apex of the Hill It Will Give a Depth of 465 Feet—Greater Portion of the Property is Yet Unopened.

Ore has been found in the lower tunnel of the Kootenay. This tunnel was started last year when the property was under bond to Mr. Humphreys, but was driven only about 25 feet. Work was resumed a short time since and the tunnel is now in nearly 50 feet. Ore began to appear last week and now there is a fair-sized body in the face. An assay showed \$23 in gold. It is reasonable to assume therefore that the beginning of a pay chute has been found.

This makes the third tunnel started on the Kootenay-Columbia property. The first one was driven in on the ground of the Columbia, which adjoins the Kootenay on the west and takes in the apex of Columbia hill. Pay ore was found in this tunnel. It was driven to a depth of 225 feet, but no work is being done there at present. Lower down the east slope of Columbia hill is the tunnel in which most work has been done and in which the great discoveries of ore have been made. It is 142 feet below the upper tunnel and is now in 240 feet. It is just now passing into the Columbia ground and directly under the mouth of the upper tunnel. The third tunnel is 98 feet below this tunnel. When it is driven far enough it will be 465 feet below the apex of Columbia hill.

The present plan of developing the Kootenay and Columbia is to drive these tunnels through the hill and make up-raises from one to the other and from the upper tunnel to the surface. When it is remembered that both the lower tunnels have yet to be driven 1,500 feet to get to the west end of the Columbia, to say nothing of about 1,200 feet to be driven by the upper tunnel something of the magnitude of the work now undertaken may be imagined and some conception formed of the possibilities of the mine, the ore in many places being 10 or 15 feet wide.

WORK ON THE ALF.

Very Satisfactory Showing in the Bottom of a 14-Foot Shaft.

Superintendent Liljeberg reports very satisfactory progress in the development of the Alf, on Mayflower hill. A shaft is now down 16 feet, with a favorable showing in the bottom. The ledge seems to come in from the Red Eagle, a claim with some very rich ore on the surface, to which the Miner referred last week. Chas. has been built and the Alf is in good shape for the winter. Special attention is now directed towards Mayflower hill owing to the rich grade of the ore in some of the veins which run into it.

REVELSTOCK MINES.

Consolation Placer Taking Out \$300 A Week Without Machinery.

Revelstock Mail: Laforme's pack train of about 25 animals, in charge of Pete Levesque and J. Neilson, was met Tuesday by F. G. Kegler about 7 miles this side of Gold Stream. The last bit of feed had been eaten up the night before at the Nine-mile tree, and they were pushing on to Gold Stream where they have a small quantity of hay stored. The snow was three feet deep, and as it has been snowing steadily since it must now be very much deeper. This want of feed stuff may result in the death of the animals unless some can be got to them right away. John D. Boyd is said to have some feed stored at Downie creek, which will help out somewhat, but as the quantity is very limited more will be required. A relief party has been organized to relieve the distressed train, and will take up a cargo of hay and oats on the boat Big Bend.

Kegler also reports meeting Geo. Laforme and Bob Green, on the same day at Seven-mile creek with a herd of cattle for the Last Chance. They were breaking the trail well. This will materially assist the pack train in getting out if the provender can be got to it on its way down. About four years ago a somewhat similar misfortune overtook the train and all the animals had to be shot, a catastrophe which it is hoped may be averted this time.

The Consolation placer on French creek, with four men at work, is taking out \$250 to \$300 per week. The gold is not very coarse, but some nuggets go about \$15, which are at present the largest obtained, the average size being \$5 and \$6. More men are to be put on right away and work pushed on the main channel, which it is expected will give most gratifying results. At present the work is being done on a bench and off the channel, so that all prospects of the yield are likely to be more than realized. In one little crevice foreman Jack Sweeney took out one day last week about \$50 worth of gold. The Consolation is more than a bonanza, and its takings—all by hand—are equivalent to and more than the results of some companies using hydraulic pressure and expensive machinery. The returns for the winter's work will assume large proportions and are well deserved.

Inspector Fletcher has written about the matter for the Big Miner, inquiring whether the present carrier, George Laforme, would carry it at the rates in force all summer, viz., \$40 for the two trips per month. It is impossible to make two trips a month in winter, and the one that can be made is harder than two in summer. Laforme agrees to make one trip per month for \$50, the men in the camps guaranteeing \$20 more.

The experts who examined the Gold Hill found good pay in all their test pits. Alex. Gainer has made a quartz location on the hydraulic ground at the mouth of French creek. The lead runs

east and west, is two feet wide and shows gold, silver and good percentage of lead. This is the first location on French creek. Gus Lund is making all snug for a good winter's work on the North Star placer claim, and will push the tunnel up stream for all he and his help are worth. The Smith creek hydraulic crew will all soon be down for the winter. A shocking accident occurred Wednesday on Cariboo creek, about 12 miles from Illecillewaet, whereby Charles Berger and Crist. Miller lost their lives. These two men were working by themselves on the Round Hill claim, situated on Cariboo creek and owned by Messrs. McCallum and Potts. Though no person witnessed the accident it is supposed that they must have gone down to their cabin from the mine to thaw out some dynamite, which, exploding, killed them instantly and shattered the cabin to pieces.

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