

pleting the "cinch" on the property. Theirs are the pockets into which the future dividends are to flow, not into the stockholders' if they are foolish enough to authorize the loan. PICK.

THE B.C. IRON WORKS AND MINING MACHINERY.

WHEN I called upon Mr. John O. Norbom, the well-known mechanical engineer and the present manager of the B.C. Iron Works Co., Ltd., at his office at Vancouver, for the purpose of securing some information regarding the company's proposal to manufacture mining machinery for the provincial market, (writes a representative of the RECORD) I found that gentleman busily occupied opening telegrams of which there was a sheaf on his desk, and rapidly noting their contents and sending replies. In this atmosphere of bustle I felt very much like an intruder and was about to beat a hasty retreat but Mr. Norbom courteously begged me to take a chair, looked resignedly at his telegrams and turning asked what he could do for me.

"What has been the result of our announcement so far? Well, as you see, it has elicited a number of enquiries and we have already been promised several orders. I may confidently say the success of the venture is already assured."

"You think, then, that you can compete with the San Francisco firms?"

"Why on earth shouldn't we? Here in Vancouver we have everything in our favour—market situation, shipping facilities, and the price of labour rather below than above what it is in the States. Then the duty on imported machinery gives us, of course, a great advantage."

"And how has the C.P.R. treated you?" I asked.

"Most liberally, indeed. In fact nothing could be handsomer than the company's offer. So, you see, it will be our fault if we fail, but we don't mean to. Last year I visited the province for my firm in San Francisco and sold in a very few weeks machinery to the value of \$60,000. The mining industry in British Columbia has grown since then, more mines are being opened almost every day and the demand for mining machinery is increasing accordingly, hence it is not difficult to understand that the Iron Works had fairly strong reasons for the present move."

"But you have not actually started to manufacture machinery yet, have you, Mr. Norbom?"

"Yes, we have a twenty-stamp mill now building, with four motors weighing 6,000 pounds each, and the stamps 1,000 pounds; an 8x12 rock breaker; six Norbom concentrators; an 8½x10 hoisting engine; a 14x22 Duplex air-compressor with ten to twelve drills to be run by either steam or water power. Oh, we are not wasting precious time."

This seemed a rather obvious hint, especially as Mr. Norbom looked rather anxiously at his telegrams, so with cordially expressed wishes for the success of the enterprise, I bade the energetic manager of the B.C. Iron Works Company's mining department adieu, much impressed with what I had heard.

EAST KOOTENAY COAL.

THE existence of extensive and valuable deposits of coal in the Crow's Nest Pass has been known for many years, but it is but recently that any sys-

tematic or thorough exploration of the coal areas has been carried out. It is only necessary to say here that as a result of these investigations the reports before circulated anent the rich potential resources of the fields have been fully confirmed. Through the kindness of that well-known authority on coal mining, Mr. William Blackmore, of Cardiff, South Wales, who visited the Crow's Nest Pass section last month as expert for the company owning large interests there, we are enabled to lay the following information before our readers:

The coal-bearing lands extend longitudinally from a point five miles south of Morrissey Creek, forty miles to the north lying upon the east bank of Elk River and stretching eastward distances from eight to ten miles, being bounded at the extreme east by Nichol Creek and the divisional line between Alberta and British Columbia. The coal area is not less than 150 square miles, allowing for a considerable distance area which has been swept away by glacial action and other erosive forces. The measures are superimposed upon the Cambrian limestones and are covered by sandstone shales. They lie in the trough of a syndimal fault and are exposed upon the east and west slopes of the mountain ranges as well as in the creeks that lead to the Elk River. Dr. Selwyn estimates that the tonnage available for extraction is 37,500,000,000.

The coal at Coal and Marten Creeks is of excellent quality and bituminous in character. At Coal Creek it is particularly firm and compact and will compare favourably with the best Welsh coals. The coal at both creeks will make a marketable coke, and good household coal is found at Marten Creek. The analysis of coal from Coal Creek made by Prof. Sussman, the C.P.R. expert, compares well with the best standard analysis of the South Wales and Pennsylvania products, being high in fixed carbon and low in both sulphur and ash. The seams are all remarkably free from impurities and deleterious matter generally. The seam at Coal Creek crops out about fifty feet above the level of the creek, thus affording ample head room for tipping, screening and loading, and hence may at once be advantageously and profitably opened up. A seam of from six to seven feet in thickness, dipping to the east to an angle of twenty-three degrees, has already been proved here by a heading. It is thought by the end of June of next year if work is commenced at this point forthwith about 500 tons will be ready for market.

Following is the report and analysis of various samples of coal made by Mr. G. C. Hoffman, F. Inst. Chem. chemist and metallurgist of the Geological Survey of Canada:—

Coal from the Peter seam, second crossing, Marten Creek, Crow's Nest Pass. Seam said to be fourteen feet thick. Geological position, cretaceous Kootanie series. Taken thirty feet in from outcrop. Analyses by slow and fast coking gave:—

	Slow Coking	Fast Coking
Hygroscopic water.....	1 79	1 79
Volatile combustible matter.....	25 45	33 04
Fixed carbon.....	69 14	61 55
Ash.....	3 62	3 62
Coke per cent.....	72 76	65 17
Ratio of volatile combustible matter to fixed carbon.....	I— 2 72	I— 1 86