TRANSPORTING DYNAMITE.

The transportation of dynamite or "Trioline" through the rough country to the west of Lake Superior is an undertaking that is interesting, and commands the respect of those handling this explosive. Several tons of this touchy commodity were sent in from Bonheur to the Saw Bill and Hawk Bay gold mines in March last. Our sketch to-day is from a photo taken at the Fisherman's shanty, about half way between Bonheur and the mines referred to.

PRECIOUS METALS OF B. C.

The Output Continues to Enlarge Steadily,

SAYS THE MINING JOURNAL

Interesting Letter From the Pacific Province for Capitalists

In Great Britain—Ore Shipments From West Kootenay—Gold Gravels of Cariboo and the Amount of the Yellow Metal Taken Out—The Trail Creek Camps—New Quartz Fields—Boring for Coal—Changes in the Mineral Laws.

Special correspondence of The London, Eng., Mining Journal:

The output of the precious metals and the associated products of the mines continue to enlarge steadily in West Kootenay, although some of the richest districts of that region—notably points in the north—have not yet begun, as a rule, to show to any very full extent by output their great natural possibilities. The Slocan and Trail Creek districts consequently yet retain their predominance, the former district of rich silver lead ores being still noted as, on the whole, the most profit yielding and productive area in the precious metal region of British Columbia. Notwithstanding the depreciation of silver, and the fact that the Slocan ores, which are mainly bearers of the white metals in association with lead that is at its cheapest, have to bear comparison with the Trail Creek output of gold and copper, both metals are steadily appreciating. So rich, however, notwithstanding fallen silver and lead values, are the metal deposits in general of the Slocan district that their average present worth of over $80 per ton of 2000 lbs. of ore shipped compares favorably, especially having regard to cost of working, with the average worth of $45 per ton of ore possessed by the gold and copper shipments of Trail Creek. Hence the shrewd American miner and mine capitalist are at least equally ready to consider a good silver proposition in British Columbia as to entertain a gold one, and by no means share the British prejudice, or rather predilection, in favor of free-milling gold, or, if that cannot be had, in favor of a gold and copper smelting proposition.

Ore Shipments.

West Kootenay's aggregate precious metal ore shipments, plus smelted "matte," amount in value for the first four months of 1897 to the goodly sum of $2,641,201—a great increase upon the corresponding total shipments of the first third of last year. It is thus evident that West Kootenay's output for 1897 will, steadily enlarging as it is, amount to at least a worth of $9,000,000 ere the end of the twelvemonth. Meanwhile other districts—notably East Kootenay—will also add largely to the precious metal output of the province, for, despite the delay in the commencement of the Crow's Nest Railroad, mining development is proceeding with quite unwonted activity in East Kootenay. The North Star mine has thrice made big recent shipments of galena, and several other mines are entering, and will shortly enter, the producing field in emulation of that successful undertaking. Anticipating and aiding this, hundreds of miners and prospectors—Americans chiefly—are now entering East Kootenay via Fort Steele, the present centre of the district's greatest mining activity.

Gold Gravels of Cariboo.

Meanwhile preparations are being made for a busy season's hydraulic work on the gold gravels of Cariboo, and the great district of Lillooet, long the scene of profitable placer gold mining, will in 1897, for the first time, become a centre of free-milling gold quartz mining in and about Cayoosh Creek, not far from the old mine village of Lillooet, and easily reached from Vancouver by rail and road. Sufficient working capital has been obtained for active productive operations on the Golden Cache group of mines here situate. In these mines investors in and about Vancouver are largely interested, and it is understood that English capital is also to a limited extent invested in the undertaking, which is worked by a company having an authorized capital of $500,000, whilst capable of opening up and successfully developing the mines on cash resources actually raised of less than $100,000, the deposits being cheaply workable. Here a large stamp mill will shortly begin work, and those behind the company freely assert that the first crushings of a considerable tonnage of rich rock should show an average of $500 a ton. The ledges on the claims vary considerably in assay; but there is a general belief, which the season's working should either verify or refute, that the Golden Cache group of mines is amongst the richest of the free-milling gold propositions in British Columbia, as a result of which the shares stand at a very big premium. Other ventures, showing either the same or adjacent leads, will also be preliminarily developed this year, amongst the more noted of those being the Alpha Bell group, the British Columbia group and the Mayflower, all worked by separate British Columbian companies of moderate capitalization. In respect of several of these ventures, and notably the Golden Cache group, representatives of British capital are now making overtures for conditional purchase—although all these mines have yet to stand the test of actual production—and on the British Columbia coast, and in Vancouver especially, hopes in respect of these run very high. The district around yielded "in the sixties," and during a decade or more later, several million dollars in gold, as a result of the rough and ready operations of the hardy placer miner, but only in the "nineties" was very considerable effort made to work the quartz deposits, whence much of the placer gold originally came. Indeed, for nearly 40 years the gold mining of British Columbia continued to be almost exclusively of the placer type, which naturally at last began to "give out." It is now hoped that the success of several free-milling mines in Lillooet will during 1897 prove that this great district is destined to become world famous for gold mining of a type which is apparently specially attractive to British investors. Meanwhile, other free-milling propositions of much promise will also be opened up in another more southerly district of the British Columbia mainland, in the Fairview portion of Southern Okanagan. In view of these and other operations elsewhere it is confidently expected that ere the close of 1897 British Columbia will become as noted for its free-milling gold deposits as for its smelting ores bearing gold in combination either with copper and silver or with silver and lead.

Trail Creek Camps.

In the meantime, the prospects of the Trail Creek gold and copper camps are greatly improved by the discovery, as stated on authority in a recent issue of The Mining Journal, that some of the lower grade ores will concentrate well and profitably, a fact which should make the successful working in and about Rossland, in a number of cases of ores less than half as rich in precious metal to the ton, as the best deposits of such noted mines as the Le Roi and the War Eagle. The former of these mines has recently so improved its hoisting apparatus that there can now, it is estimated, be brought to the surface daily 50 tons of ore, averaging $45 a ton, which thing, if in fair measure accomplished as the owning company hopes it will be, must increase greatly the present large profitableness of this famous mine.

New Quartz Fields.

Busy preliminary work is now being done in new fields for British Columbian quartz mining within specially easy reach of the coast cities of Vancouver and New Westminster, in the neighborhood of Pitt and Harrison lakes in the Fraser River Valley, where very promising gold and copper bearing prospects have been revealed. Indeed, in two or three instances, the prospect stage has been passed, and the Trethewav Mine on Harrison Lake have already made some small first shipments to the smelter at Everett, Washington, and expect to make very considerable ones ere the summer of 1897 is well advanced. The cost of transit and smelting is set at $12 a ton, and if the Trethewav group yields, as anticipated, a considerable supply of $45 a ton ore, there should be an ample margin for profit on fair capitalization of these and neighboring mines in the Harrison Lake district. Operations are rather less advanced about Pitt Lake, which is within some 20 miles of New Westminster, and not more than about 30 miles from Vancouver, and accessible from both by water, but very easily thus reached from New Westminster, a threatened decline of which comparatively old city of British Columbia is happily being averted, largely as a result of these promising mine discoveries. Of these more will be heard, and more can doubtless definitely be stated by your correspondent within another month or two.

On the Coast.

It is also now hoped, though it cannot yet be said that there is any full assurance, that workable deposits, bearing respectively copper, and gold and silver lead ores, will, ere the close of the summer of 1897, be preliminarily opened out and made productive on and about Burrard Inlet, Vancouver's splendid harbor, at points within 10 miles or less of this seaport city. At Lynn Creek, eight miles from Vancouver, have in particular been discovered recently deposits which will, it is stated, run $27 to the ton in the precious metals and associated ores. Here further and working tests are required to show the extent and possibilities of the claims, but the owners are sanguine; and, meanwhile, at other points on the creek Japanese are working, whose low scale of living—by no means popular here out West—will certainly enable their claims to be operated with success, if at all possible, as these Orientals are content with very modest profit and wage returns. There are also on the Capilano Creek, four miles from Vancouver, groups of claims bearing some free milling gold of a low grade, but these have yet been only explored here and there, in one or two instances, by a few weak blasts, which have revealed only about $1 to the ton. Further working will, however, shortly be done on these, and it is quite possible that a considerably richer ore may there be discovered, for outer surface indications are favorable. So conveniently situated are these Capilano claims for working, being close to splendid hydraulic power, natural and applied—the latter belonging to the city waterworks hard by—and also adjoining an excellent road, that it is calculated that if ore running as low even as $6 to $7 per ton of 2000 pounds could profitably be worked on the Capilano. The deposits along the creek, however, as stated, only yet reveal a bare possibility, which, however, should be worth the expenditure of a few hundred pounds, or its equivalent in some $3000 to $4000, in order to make sufficient tests at several apparently likely points.

Boring for Coal.

However, whether these efforts succeed or not, there are at Shoal Bay, Jew's Inlet, and at many other points of the coast and islands, in addition to the promising districts previously noted in the Fraser Valley, more than sufficient smelting ore deposits to justify an early beginning of smelting and refining at Vancouver, which, if accomplished, should enormously aid the mining development of a portion of the Province that has until recently been little prospected, but is now found to be richly mineralized at numerous points. To aid this further industrial development, amongst others boring for coal has been proceeding lately at South Vancouver, but workable deposits have not yet been reached, though the drill is down 700 feet. It is now feared that the deposits here lie too low for profitable working, but in any case coal and lime can be readily and cheaply got in by water for a Vancouver smelter from the Nanaimo, Comox and Texada Island districts respectively. At Comox, moreover, the Dunsmuir Company is about to work large coking ovens with a view to the production of furnace coke.

Mineral Laws.

After twice passing the ordeal of discussion and vote in committee, several members of the Government as well as the Opposition party favoring the change, a clause in the Mineral Laws Amendment bill hereafter restricting miners' rights under free miner's licenses to British subjects, and those formally declaring intent so to become, was rejected finally by 13 to 12. The Government and the Legislature in general had meanwhile been deluged by telegrams from the Kootenays, sent by American miners and friends and associates of American miners there engaged, urging that great detriment would be done to the mining industry by the adoption in British Columbia of a restrictive mine right policy, following the example of several Western States. The Attorney-General, the Hon. Mr. Eberts, who first supported the change, then suddenly "changed front," as also did other members, and by dint of strenuous whipping the restriction was in the end vetoed by the narrowest of majorities. The change is favored by many Canadians, who are now entering the mining districts, and unless American-alien-oppressive legislation, specially directed against Canada, should ere long be mitigated, may become the law in British Columbia in two or three years. The Canadian is growing weary of receiving from his neighbor legislators blow after blow without hitting back. It is, however, only fair to say that as between man and man the best of feeling generally prevails between British subjects and Americans in the British Columbia mine country, scattered about which, busily and very generally successfully working, are nearly 25,000 incomers from the States. Many of these, however, are here to stay, and appreciating the merits of British law and order, and the opportunities of the land, are gradually obtaining naturalization with a view to become, as many hundreds of Americans have in the past become, British subjects, the present Mayor of the City of New Westminster, a man of long municipal service, being a good instance in point.

Mongol Labor.

In the Metalliferous Mines Act a clause has, however, been inserted forbidding the employment of Chinese or Japanese underground or in connection with hoisting machinery. This is very generally approved by the working population here, which dreads a big influx of the cheapest Mongol labor, and has as little love for the much-belauded Japanese as for his Chinese brother. Another restrictive effect of a like character forbids the employment of Mongols on undertakings hereafter obtaining statutory charters and privileges in British Columbia, and this measure was, despite the opposition of the Provincial Government, carried by a substantial majority in the Legislature. This is now specially referred to the Governor-General in Council with a view to consider whether the Dominion shall pass or veto this Mongol Alien Restriction bill, by virtue of the supervisory power retained by Canada's Dominion Parliament and its Government. If, however, the Hon. Mr. Laurier and his colleagues should decide that the bill be vetoed, they will cause much discontent in British Columbia, where the white worker shrinks from a threatened invasion of many thousands of Chinese and Japanese. The veto should, moreover, be the less probable, as Mr. Laurier is distinctly pledged to respect the opinion of British Columbian members of his party in respect of Mongol immigration, and the Liberal members of Parliament for the Province are a unit in favor of such restriction.

Mr. McKenzie in Mines.

Last week Mr. William McKenzie, President of the Toronto Railway Company, purchased a large block of Canadian Gold Fields Syndicate shares, and also purchased "Benvenuto" for a residence, giving $100,000 for his new home. Yesterday J. C. Drewry, secretary-treasurer of the syndicate, offered to bet $100 with a prominent Toronto broker that Mr. McKenzie's share of profits from his investment in the Canadian Gold Fields Syndicate would, within two years, more than pay for Benvenuto. The broker was afraid to take the bet. Mr. Drewry evidently believes that the Canadian Gold Fields Syndicate have got a bonanza mine in their Sea set No. 2, and, judging from recent developments he is probably right.

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at 11 o'clock a.m.

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