

The Velvet is looking in excellent shape and is shipping first-class ore to the Northport works. Mr. Gray, the manager, is jubilant over the results obtained and is confident of ultimate success, and is entirely warranted by the development work which has been done, especially in the upper levels, where some bodies of high grade ore, previously unsuspected, have been located and shipped at a good profit. Samples running well over \$30 in gold and as high as seven per cent. in copper have been obtained. These bodies are not large in extent but there are several within a few feet of each other so they are easily worked. Prospecting done in levels immediately above and below have demonstrated their continuity. There is a concentrator partly finished upon this property, but no work will be done through it for some little time to come, until a welcome capital account is placed to the credit of the mine through its profits. The management is now contemplating the opening up of the Portland, a contiguous property, also belonging to the Velvet and situated within 300 feet of the present workings at the main shaft.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PLACER MINING ACT.

TO THE EDITOR: A meeting was held on the 10th of January, 1903, by the miners of Black Bear and Spanish Creeks at the Moore Company's cabin on Spanish Creek, to consider the proposed suggested amendments to the Placer Mining Act, suggested by the Placer Mining Committee appointed at the *Ledger* office in Vancouver on December 18, of which James Reid was chairman, to draft proposed amendments to Part VII of the Placer Mining Act.

The meeting was unanimous in indorsing Crown Grants for deep placer mines, and suggest the following amendments:

Amend Section 2, Chapter 136, Placer Mining Act of 1899, to read as follows:

"Placer mines shall be divided into two classes, as follows:

"Shallow placers and deep placers.

"Shallow placer mines shall include all claims located on creek diggings, bar diggings, bench diggings, dry, diggings and hill diggings in newly discovered shallow placer mining districts.

"Deep placer mines shall include all claims located on deep alluvial or other deposits of earth, gravel and gravel conglomerate, containing gold, platinum, osmiridium, or other valuable metals or precious stones that shall be worked by the hydraulic, hydraulic elevator, or milling process."

Part VII of the Placer Mining Act, so far as it refers to leases, shall be repealed and amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 1. That practically no changes be made in the present Act from Sec. 1 to Sec. 89, inclusive, except in so far as is necessary to prevent conflict with the changes to be made in Part VII."

This will protect the individual miner.

"Sec. 2. Every free miner will be entitled to locate and apply for a Crown Mineral Grant for a deep placer mining claim on any creek, bar, hill, bench, or

plateau on any unoccupied and unreserved Crown land, but no more than two claims in the same locality, one of which shall be a creek claim. He shall be allowed any number of placer mineral claims by purchase, and every free miner may sell, mortgage, or dispose of his claim or part thereof, but in no case shall any free miner be permitted to locate and record a deep placer mining claim in a newly discovered shallow placer mining district without first obtaining the consent of the Gold Commissioner, with the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

"Sec. 3. The dimensions of the deep placer mining claim shall be as follows: In creek diggings, one-half mile in length.

"Sec. 4. In other deep placer mining ground, 80 acres; but in no case shall any deep placer mining claim extend along any creek or river more than 500 yards, creek diggings excepted.

"Sec. 5. Every deep placer mining claim shall be as nearly as possible rectangular in form and marked by four legal posts at the corners thereof, firmly fixed in the ground. One of such posts shall be marked as the initial post, and on that post shall be placed a legible notice in writing, stating the name of the claim, its length and breadth in feet, and a general description of its boundaries, commencing at the initial post marked No. 1, stating distance and general direction and a line blazed therefrom to each of the other corner posts, which shall be marked No. 2, 3 and 4.

"Sec. 6. Any lawful holder of a deep placer claim shall be entitled to a Crown Mineral Grant, for the exclusive right to mine and extract the precious metals and minerals from said mining claim until the same shall have been worked out or abandoned on payment to the Government of British Columbia the sum of one dollar per acre of land conveyed by grant, in lieu of the two per cent. tax on the gross output of placer mines. The intending purchaser of said right to mine shall comply with all the provisions of Sec. 36 of the Mineral Act, and the amendments concerning the application for Crown Grants, so far as they may be applicable to deep placer mines.

"Sec. 7. The holder of a Mineral Grant for a deep placer mining claim, or a consolidation of deep placer mining claims, shall expend annually on each claim or mine containing 80 acres or less at least \$200 for exploratory work. Such work shall consist of manual labour, permanent improvements made on the mine, in building roads, shafts, tunnels, machinery, dams, canals, ditches, flumes, pipe line or any mining work necessary for equipment or operation of mine.

"Sec. 8. The holder of a Crown Mineral Grant for a deep placer mining claim, or placer mine, or a consolidation of deep placer mining claims or placer mines, shall pay annually the deep placer mining tax of \$1 for each and every acre of mining claim or mine so held.

"Sec. 9. The failure of the holder or holders of Crown Mineral Grants for deep placer claims or mines to comply with the provisions of Sections 6, 7, and 8 of this Act, shall be deemed an abandonment, and such mine shall be declared open for re-location by the Gold Commissioner or Mining Recorder in such district, who shall post notices to that effect on the bulletin board of his office.

"Sec. 10. It shall be lawful for the Gold Commissioner, with the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor