

Mines and Mining.

NEWS OF THE MINES.

Victoria, B.C., July 28.—A cable from London this morning announces that the appeal of Bryden against the Union Colliery Co., has been allowed by the privy council, the section of coal mines regulation act prohibiting the employment of Chinese underground in coal mines being declared unconstitutional and the judgment of the full court British Columbia to the contrary being set aside.

Steamer, Queen City, which returned from New Copenhagen and Way ports on the West coast this morning, brought news of a new coal strike which promises to add to the rapidly growing industries of coast, a mine capable of making big shipments monthly. The coal was found near Quatsino, on the property of West Vancouver Commercial Company, and about four miles from their present working. A six foot seam of likely looking coal has been found about six feet. It is close to the salt water and runs from a short distance above high water to some distance below low water. A number of men are taking out coal there for the company. The officers of the Queen City gave the coal a test and they speak very highly of it. Fifteen tons of surface pickings were loaded & used on the voyage down. It gave satisfaction to the engineers. There was little smoke from it and comparatively little ash. Philip Row, manager of the West Vancouver Commercial Company's properties at Quatsino, was a passenger down by the steamer.

Rossland, B.C., July 28.—John B. Hastings, general manager of the War Eagle and Centre Star mines, has a well earned promotion. In future he will be resident director and consulting engineer in all Gooderham Blackstock holdings. Edmund B. Kirby, of Denver, Col., an eminent mining engineer and metallurgist, has been appointed general manager for the War Eagle and Centre Star, assuming the duties of his position to-day.

Mr. Blackstock, in making the announcement, stated that the development of War Eagle and Centre Star has assumed such proportions that they demanded the individual care and attention of one manager.

Great satisfaction is expressed throughout the camp at Mr. Hastings' promotion. It is understood that a still further extension of interest is contemplated by the Gooderham-Blackstock syndicate and development of present holdings will be more rapidly pushed.

Winnipeg, Man., July 28.

Winnipeg—Tenders for a large amount of Winnipeg City debentures were opened to-day. C. H. Coffin, of Chicago, bid 98½ for electric light bonds, 35 years at 3½ per cent., and A. T. Drummond, Kingston, bid 105 for local improvement bonds, 20 years at 4 p. c.

Wabigoon, Ont.—Reports are to hand from Manitou Gold Mining District, South of Wabigoon, of immensely rich ore being found by parties now opening up a mining

location. One of these is a big reef under development by Mr. G. W. Glass, with American capital, and at a depth of thirty feet from the surface the miners struck a vein of ore containing nuggets of gold as large as beans, and it is considered to be richer even than the famous Mikado ore taken out last winter.

Equally as rich ore is now being mined by the Cracker-Jack Mining Co., who are working on the Cracker-Jack Mine, on Dog Fly Lake, Lower Manitou, under the management of Reginald Keating. No accurate estimate has been made of the exact value of the ore, which must run several thousands of dollars to the ton.

The Glass Reef and the Cracker-Jack are about fifteen miles apart, and the former is about eight miles south-east of the Barker mine, recently sold for \$260,000.

Vancouver, July 30.—When the record of B. C. mining in 1898, comes to be written the Coast mines will take prominent place therein.

Mining men declare that within sight of Vancouver almost, there are the makings of better camps than Rossland. The coast only wants money, capital wisely spent, and Vancouver will become the centre of as rich a producing district as any part of British Columbia.

Beyond the Rockies little is known of the possibilities of the coast. Eastern capitalists may with advantage, study the coast mining situation as it exists to-day. And what is seen, activity far up the coast from Vancouver to Alaska. From Mount Sicker, Comox, Texada Islands, Jarvis Inlet, Melaspine Inlet, Power Lake, Clayoquot, Nitinat and Quatsino, come encouraging reports of assessment work done, promising indications and new strikes. But as yet the prospecting has really only been reached the coast mines are in the making. Capital is making mines out of the Dorothy Morton, The Blue Bells, The Copper Queen and Cornell, the Douglas Pine and others. The Dorothy Morton ships its cyanide gold bricks each month. English money will make the Blue Bells, and the Vananda smelter is already treating ore from the other named properties. The smelter has caused, what one writer describes as a regular bustle of business on Texada Island.

Victoria, B.C., July 30.—Steamer Tees arrived from North last night brought 105 passengers, including Lieut. Governor McInnes. Many of the passengers brought Klondike gold, though none had it in large quantity. Captain Pearse, of the Canadian Military force in Yukon, was on board.

Victoria, B.C., July 30.—Lieut. Governor McInnes, who has just returned from an extended visit to Atlin, speaks with the greatest enthusiasm of prospects of that country. This year's output of placer gold he places at a million dollars, while he is convinced that it will prove a hydraulicizing field of remarkable extent and richness and also yield well in quartz. After describing his progress by steamer from here to Skagway and the trip thence by rail and water to Bennett, the Governor proceeds:—

"The sail from Bennett to Atlin is indescribably lovely. Atlin city is almost ideally situated and you can go almost

anywhere in the country on horseback, as it is so open and park-like.

"I visited four of the creeks, Pino, Spruce, McKee and Golden, saw gold washed from all of them. On McKee, I went on the claim that is being worked by McKee, the Discoverer, and Capt. Langley, of this city. McKee showed me a sack of gold worth a little over \$72 which he said he had washed from one pan of earth taken out of a crevice. When the water was drained off so that there was about two feet left in the hole, McKee took a shovel and lifted up some of earth from the bottom. A nugget about half as long as my thumb fell off the point of shovel. He then took a pan and about half filled it with earth from the hole which was not an easy task, on account of there being so much water. I washed the pan myself, and here is what I got," and with this the Governor produced several small nuggets which when placed on a \$5 gold piece, covered it with the little mound, the value being about \$6.

McKee then dug up another pan of dirt which he washed himself taking out about \$12 worth of gold. On all the creeks that I visited, I saw gold taken out, on Dr. Miller's claim at Discovery, on Pine, the gold was lying thick in the sluice beach. Dr. Miller told me that they were averaging 65 ounces of gold every 22 hours.

I made a trip across the country, accompanied by Mr. Berthume and a mining engineer from Australia, my object being to look at the great hydraulic deposits, I saw in one place a bank of gold bearing gravel 150 feet high, the gold being distributed from top to bottom. This bank appears to extend for a distance. By tapping the water of Pine river a fall of 650 feet can be got. Pine river carries during the hydraulicizing season about 10,000 inches of water".

"There are numerous other deposits of this gold bearing gravel, and a great thing in their favor is the existence on all hands of natural reservoirs of water in the form of lakes at latitudes above them of from 500 to 800 feet. All the experts agree that the country is an ideal one for hydraulic mining".

"I saw some excellent quartz specimens, too, but did not have time to examine the rock in place, but those who have given attention to this matter are very hopeful of the future of the country as a seat of lode mining".

"I saw some of the largest nuggets. The finest weighed 16½ ounces, contained no quartz and was worth about \$17 an ounce. It is the most beautiful specimen of gold that I have ever seen. This was from Pino Creek. Another weighing 13½ ounces from Pino Creek contained some quartz, another from the same creek weighed 9½ ounces and one from McKee Creek 8½ ounces. I also saw a better from Spruce Creek, weighing 7 pounds, consisting of gold and quartz intermingled and worth about \$700. I recommended to the bankers in Atlin that these nuggets should be brought to Victoria and Vancouver, photographed and described in the newspapers. I would give a certificate showing that they were the product of Atlin if this were thought desirable, and if they were sent for exhibition in Eastern cities they would prove the best possible advertisement for the country."