

All the mines of the Boundary copper camps were active and their general tone appeared to suggest healthy improvement without any sign of an undesirable boom.

A hurried visit was made to the silver-lead districts of Slocan, where there is also an awakening, and several mines are working profitably. The finding of the vein in the Rambler-Cariboo mine at a depth of more than 1,200 ft. chanced to be coincident with Mr. Low's visit. This is of the greatest importance to the district, pointing, as it does, to the probability of the silver and lead ores being found at a depth previously unknown.

Near Hedley, in the Similkameen, the large Nickel Plate mine was visited and a trip was made over the adjoining properties. These gave surface indications of large ore bodies, and when the railway shall be completed and freights reduced to a reasonable figure it is expected these ores will prove payable.

Mr. C. Camsell, who was working along the Similkameen valley above Princeton, was seen at Hedley, and was quite enthusiastic about the large masses of ore in that region which, although low grade, will, he confidently believes, upon the completion of the railway, be found capable of being profitably worked.

The coast was reached on August 22, when Mr. O. E. LeRoy, who was working on the coast section about and to the northward of Vancouver, made favourable reports concerning the mineral deposits both of the mainland and Texada Island.

Summed up, Mr. Low's visit to southern British Columbia showed the existence of a renewed and increased activity in mining at all mining centres, and he came away with the feeling that the operations are now being conducted throughout those districts in a solid and legitimate manner with the object in view of making money, not from speculative dealings in shares, but from the actual output of the mines.

It is hoped a visit from the director will be of annual occurrence; that it will result in much mutual benefit to the mining interest and to the Geological Survey there can be little doubt. Mr. Low's endeavour to meet personally the principal owners and operators of the several camps and, where possible, to freely exchange ideas as to the present and future work of the Department is a step in the right direction. By this means and this only can a clear understanding be obtained as to the desire of the Department to help in every possible way the mining interest of Canada: at the same time the director receives valuable suggestions as to the manner in which such help may be given, and these suggestions it may be taken for granted will be acted upon as far as circumstances permit, thus increasing the usefulness of the Geological Survey and as well materially benefitting the mining industry of the Province.

The possibilities and probabilities of a proposition are sometimes at variance. In mining, we are so accustomed to the possibilities that we quite overlook the probability features.

COMPANY MEETINGS AND REPORTS.

DOMINION COPPER CO., LTD.

The annual general meeting of the Dominion Copper Co., Ltd., was held at Phoenix, Boundary district, B. C., on October 6. The following report of the meeting was taken from the *Phoenix Pioneer*:

The meeting was for the election of a board of seven directors and for such other business as might come before the meeting.

The directors' report and the financial statement and balance sheet for the year ending July 31, 1906, as follows, were read and adopted:

"Your directors respectfully present their report of the state and condition of the company for the year commencing July 31, 1905, when the present management took charge, and ending July 31, 1906.

"The report of the president, dated November 22, 1905, and mailed to each shareholder, stated the progress made up to that time in perfecting the reorganization of the Montreal & Boston Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, Ltd., in transferring all its properties to your company, and in developing the mines and preparing to start the smelter.

"All claims against the company, or subsidiary companies, mentioned in the report, have been settled or successfully defended, so that at the present time the company and the subsidiary companies are free from claims of every nature.

"On January 31, 1906, your company purchased all the properties of the Montreal & Boston Copper Company, Ltd., including the smelter at Boundary Falls, B. C., and the Sunset, Crown Silver and C. O. D. mineral claims.

"The work of exploring and developing the properties of your company has been actively pushed under the supervision of Mr. M. M. Johnson, consulting engineer.

"The Rawhide and the Idaho claims are now in a position to furnish the additional tonnage necessary when the new furnace shall go into commission, and our output will be from 1,200 to 1,400 tons of ore per day, or considerably more than double our present capacity. The plant and equipment at the mines and smelter have been put into first-class condition.

"A number of economies in operation are being introduced at the mines and the smelter, including the equipment of both the mines and the smelter with electrical power in place of steam. The company has been using since last December about 600 h.p. per day, at a cost of about \$135 to \$140 per annum per h.p. When the electrical equipment is completely installed, the cost per h.p. per annum will be reduced to \$30. This will result in a saving of \$100,000 a year to the company over its present cost of power, as the company will be using at least 1,000 h.p. upon the installation of the new furnace.

"The new furnace, which has been built by the Traylor Engineering Co. has been shipped and will be installed as soon as it arrives. This is the largest furnace ever erected in British Columbia. It will have a daily capacity of about 800 tons of ore, and by reason of being equipped with the most modern devices it is expected that a saving of 20 per cent in fuel will be effected, and also a large saving in the labour required to operate it. These two items will aggregate over \$100 per day. The company has secured a new contract for converting its matte, which will reduce the cost of this work over 25 per cent.

"An analysis of the company's operations for the eight months of operation, December 1, 1905, to July 31, 1906, which has been largely a period of construction and development, shows 133,034 tons of ore smelted, producing 3,220.89 tons of matte, having a total value of \$640,128.97. The operating cost, including mining, smelting, converting, marketing and administration expenses, has been \$500,984.93, leaving a net profit for the eight months of \$139,144.04.

"The results of the economies already introduced are beginning to be reflected in the company's earnings. The operations for the month of July produced earnings of \$31,431.79, and on this basis the net profits of the present smelter for twelve months would exceed \$300,000. The new furnace will