

MACHINERY AND CONSTRUCTION NOTES.

Crow's Nest Pass.—The permanent steel structure erected at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co's Coal Creek colliery in Southeast Kootenay, is now stated to be giving satisfaction, with the machinery running smoothly. The tippie and trestle is 832 ft. in length, crossing from one side of Coal Creek Valley to the other and connecting with mines on both sides. The equipment consists of modern coal-handling machinery and appliances, all selected with a view to labour-saving and expedition in handling coal in large quantity. Present provision is for handling up to 4,000 tons per diem, but the structure has been designed with a view to an eventual extension to 8,000 tons. Electric locomotives, trip and auxiliary feeders, rotary dumps, and kickbacks handle the loaded and return cars; shaking tables, belt conveyors, and picking tables provide for the screening and dry cleaning of the coal; and a gravity box car loader delivers it into cars ready for shipment.

Nelson.—The concentrating mill at the mine of the La Plata Mines Co., Ltd., at Kokanee Creek, Nelson mining division of West Kootenay, which was started on May 23, has since been working satisfactorily, the machinery running smoothly and the plant exceeding its guaranteed capacity of 75 tons per diem. The crushing plant consists of a Blake crusher, two sets of 36 by 14-in. rolls, and, for fine crushing, a battery of 5 stamps. The concentrating machinery includes jigs of from two to five compartments, Overstrom tables, six Frue vanners, etc. Two products are being made—zinc and silver-lead concentrates. The latter are shipped to the Hall Mining and Smelting Co's smelter at Nelson. It is intended to shortly install an air compressor and electric light plant at the La Plata mine, which was long known in the district as the Molly Gibson.

Revelstoke.—The Prince Mining and Development Co., Ltd., owning 18 mineral claims situated in Standard Basin, Big Bend district, has just had a survey made of a route for an aerial tramway from the company's Standard mine to the Columbia River, a distance of about six miles. The company proposes erecting a smelter on the river, which is navigable thence to Revelstoke, a junction and divisional point on the Canadian Pacific transcontinental railway, and the aerial tramway is to be used for conveying ore down from, and supplies up to, the mine, at which development work has been in progress for several years, opening up promising bodies of copper ore.

Boundary.—At the Carmi mine, on the west fork of Kettle River, Boundary district, the stamp mill is being enlarged and other additions made to the small gold-saving plant—the pioneer plant in this district—the new machinery including a 5-stamp battery (1,200-lb stamps), 2-stamp Tremain battery, amalgamating plates, Overstrom tables, cyanide plant, centrifugal pump, etc. Several years ago the Carmi shipped to the B. C. Copper Co's smelter at Greenwood 385 tons of ore which yielded a little better than \$20 gold and 4 oz. silver per ton. The cost of hauling 50 miles to the railway terminus at Midway was, however, too high to admit of the mine being worked at a profit, so operations since have been confined to development and sampling tests, pending the construction of a railway up the west fork, now in progress.

PATENT OFFICE REPORT.

Rowland Brittain, patent attorney, Vancouver, sends the following report on a patent recently granted through his agency:

To Mr. Thomas Kiddie, of Victoria, late manager of the Co's smelter, Ladysmith, Vancouver Island, a Canadian patent on an improved process for roasting the fines or concentrates of sulphide ores preparatory to smelting. Under this patent the sulphide fines are mixed with clay or other suitable material, and after forming the compound into bricks of convenient size and drying them they are roasted in heaps, stalls or kilns, where being initially fired the process of roast-

ing is maintained by the combustion of the sulphur in the bricks as in the ordinary process of roasting lump sulphide ore. The result of such treatment is that thorough desulphurisation and oxidation of the ore is attained in a strong brick which not only holds the metallic oxide in a gangue favourable to the subsequent reduction in the smelter, but is well adapted to stand the rough handling in conveying it to and depositing it in the smelting furnace.

MINING AND SCIENTIFIC PRESS.

The following circular, dated Berkeley, California, U.S.A., April 21, reached us too late for publication in the April number of the B. C. MINING RECORD.

"In face of the calamity that has befallen the community in which we live, our own loss seems small. Our records, our library, the note-books of the editors, the manuscript ready for the printer, and the whole of the plant in our composing room, all lie buried under the ruins of San Francisco. But, owing to the customary precaution observed by two of us, complete copies of the weekly subscription lists had been taken to Berkeley, so that we possess that necessary record. Fortunately, most of the members of our staff live at Berkeley, where the earthquake was less severe and where no conflagration followed in the wake of this terrifying occurrence. As the earthquake occurred at 5.15 a.m., and the fire in San Francisco prevented people on this side of the Bay from reaching their offices, most of us were spared the horror of scenes that sear the memory. We are fortunate, therefore, as compared to many of our fellow citizens. And for other reasons. Our plant has been demolished; but this journal is built on nothing so ephemeral as paper, and on nothing so cheap as machinery; it is based upon the support of many thousand readers and subscribers who are never less likely to withdraw their support than at a time of misfortune. The goodwill of the *Mining & Scientific Press* is locked up in no safe, confined to no printing room; it cannot be shaken by an earthquake or consumed by fire. And, gentlemen, our friends, there is another something that is not destructible by physical misfortune or financial adversity, and that is the spirit that gives life to the printed word.

T. A. RICKARD,

Editor.

Berkeley, April 20, 1906."

Mr. Edgar Rickard, the business manager, adds: "Our old offices at 350 Market street, being in the very centre of the most damaged section of San Francisco, have been totally demolished. We have lost our entire plant, including cuts, half-tones, type and issue for April 21, which had already been set up; fortunately our complete and most recent mailing list has been saved. We have secured ample offices in the First National Bank Building at Berkeley, which is on the east side of the Bay of San Francisco, and close to the terminus of the transcontinental railroads. Through the courtesy of The Standard Publishing Company, we are in possession of proper facilities for printing. We will only be handicapped (for a few issues) by scarcity of paper.

HYDRAULICKING IN THE YUKON.

The following has been taken from Press Bulletin No. 1 of the Geological Survey of Canada:—

Urgent demands are being made upon the Dominion Government for assistance in expensive schemes of transporting water many miles in pipes to Bonanza and Hunker Creeks in order to work hydraulically the auriferous bench gravels found in the banks of these streams.

These water propositions are all "in the millions," and great acre will be required to test their feasibility and value before the country is committed to granting them aid.

The Minister of the Interior, who visited the Yukon last summer, takes great interest in this matter, and in order to arrive at a proper understanding of the problem, is sending out a strong party from the Geological Survey with instructions to make as close an estimate as possible of the volume