

trict," our Kamloops correspondent writes: "About 30 miles of the river have been staked and several parties are prospecting further up the river. While one company has got good returns from apparently careful examination of the ground I do not think the tests made have been sufficiently extensive and thorough to prove that the gold exists to any depth, and old placer miners all agree that it is confined to the top ten or twelve inches."

Mr. E. Nelson Fell is to be congratulated on the excellent showing of the Athabasca for the past year. Considering all things, the amount of development work done, the condition of the labour market, among others, a profit of over thirty thousand dollars is not at all bad as a beginning. If all the English mining companies had as careful and as good a man in charge of mines on this side there would be fewer failures.

The directors of the Bend 'Or Mines are to be congratulated upon the eminently satisfactory report and financial statement of the year's operations, which they have been able to present to the shareholders. The company's affairs appear to be in a flourishing condition and there is every prospect of respectable and regular dividends in the near future. The success of the Bend 'Or will go far towards restoring confidence in the Bridge River district, which was so rudely shaken by the Golden Cache collapse. Not only is the Bend 'Or an exceedingly promising property but, as the accounts which we publish elsewhere show, it is being managed on very careful and economical lines.

A correspondent, a mining engineer, writes to the MINING RECORD from Montreal expressing strong approval of the article published last month and commenting on the close-down of the War Eagle. As some of our correspondent's remarks are of public interest we quote as follows from his letter:—

"I much congratulate you on the more than able article in your last issue on War Eagle affairs. The issue arrived whilst our annual meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute was in session and met with unanimous approval. Apart altogether from the personal aspect of the case and the unfair treatment of both the public and the shareholders there is more than sufficient justification for the severest criticism on account of the prejudicial effect of their action on B. C. investments generally. Only those who have tried to place B. C. properties on the London market know the lack of confidence felt there which is enhanced by such tactics as we are now condemning. The gravity of the charge against Messrs. Gooderham and Blackstock lies in the fact that they were told, I understand, in September last by Mr. Kirby as soon as he went there that the mine was exhausted so far as profitable recoveries were concerned and yet after that, in fact as late as November 15th Mr. Gooderham gave a most optimistic 'interview, talked of a prodigious output, increased value of shares and increased dividend.' Your estimates are perfectly sound and will not be falsified by results. War Eagle at \$1.00 is not more than a $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. investment if that. There is reason to believe that the smelter returns for the last six months show a gross value of less than \$12, which would not leave more than \$2.00 to \$3.00 profit, but they will not even to their shareholders produce the returns."

The Vancouver *News-Advertiser* recently quoted Mr. Robert Murray, provincial timber inspector, as having stated that "In the Boundary country, half a dozen new stamp-mills have been put in since he was there last and the smelters under construction are going ahead rapidly." It is true that the erection of two smelters is being proceeded with, but so far as stamp mills are concerned, not one has yet been put in throughout the district generally known as "the Boundary country"—that is the district lying between Rock Creek on the west and Christina Lake on the east. A lack of knowledge of Boundary mining matters on the part of whoever is responsible for that department of its news occasionally results in the *News-Advertiser*, like other Coast newspapers, publishing statements relating to the Boundary district that are unreliable and misleading. Anyone at all familiar with the ores of the Boundary country knows that stamp mills will play a very small part in their reduction.

The off-hand way in which local mining companies are managed has been well illustrated in the case of the Winnipeg mine in the Boundary Creek district. Without consulting the shareholders, the managing director, Mr. Duncan McIntosh, one day took it into his head to announce that he was negotiating a consolidation with the Brandon and Golden Crown company, whose property adjoins the Winnipeg. Meanwhile the mine, for no known reason, was closed down, which was followed by a fall in the stock from 32 to 13. The Winnipeg mine was originally owned by Mr. McIntosh, but since he has allowed it to be acquired by a joint stock company, he should be taught that he has no longer the right to do just what his fancy pleases with it.

One of the Greenwood papers recently remarked that Mr. Paul Johnson makes a capital advertising agent. He is certainly an adept at the art of booming. But one trade at a time should be enough for any man and would it not be as well if Mr. Johnson stuck to his work of superintending the construction of the smelter at Greenwood and talked a little less freely? Our Boundary Creek correspondent draws attention to one of this gentleman's statements as recently published in the Rossland and Spokane newspapers, that "the following mines will contribute ore to the Mother Lode smelter, namely, the Ah There, the Buckhorn, Morrison, St. Lawrence, Butcher Boy and Sunset." Most of the mines enumerated are as yet not developed much beyond the prospect stage. Our correspondent writes: "The Ah There is installing a small boiler and steam hoist. Its shaft is down seventy feet and it has also a cross-cut, but from what I can gather the mine could not produce at present five tons of ore a day. The Butcher Boy and St. Lawrence are, so far as I can ascertain, no further advanced as regards development. The Sunset has put in a good plant, but nothing definite is heard of its ore bodies. The Buckhorn is doing good prospecting work down to the 200-foot level, but up to a week ago had encountered nothing but good indications and small stringers of ore carrying fair values. My summing up of the position is that all these "mines" together if systematically developed from now on for six months would not at the end of that period be able to maintain a regular total output of a hundred tons per day, so that there does not appear to be much to justify Mr. Johnson's somewhat extravagant statements."