

Rossland at the instance of the shareholders, to examine the mine, after a residence of three months spent in investigation utterly disputes Mr. Macdonald's conclusions. This gentleman's detailed report has not yet been made public, but he has meanwhile cabled an advance statement to the London board in which he estimates the ore in sight above the 900-foot level in the Le Roi to be 484,000 tons and places the net profit for the financial year at \$585,000. The despatch further states that all of the year's profit earnings have been expended in improvements and that in consequence the mine and smelter are magnificently equipped. It is also intimated that under capable management the property is now in a position to earn dividends for shareholders and that the ore showings in the lower levels are most promising, the shoot at the 900-foot level having widened from 12 to 35 feet in the 170 feet driven along it, with an average value of \$15.75. As the average value of the ore sent to the smelter during the 12 months ending June 30, was \$13.16 the last admission is an important one. These figures include the cost of mining, smelting and all other charges, so that whatever the ore runs over the figures variously given will be net profit to the shareholders.

If the new manager can carry out his promise of reducing the cost of production and smelting to \$7.50 or \$7, it will readily be seen that the property, now so well equipped, is likely to make a good showing this coming year.

The interesting table below, which is taken from the report of the Centre Star Mining Company for the year ending September 30, 1901, shows in full detail the cost of the development work done in the mine during the year:

	Sinking Main Shafts.	Sinking Small Shafts.	Raising, Drilling	
Total advance feet .....	337	50.5	324.5	2,107
COST PER FOOT.				
1. Drilling .....	\$12.95	\$7.61	\$7.51	\$5.43
2. Blasting .....	4.89	1.77	2.05	0.95
3. Explosives .....	3.91	3.39	3.27	2.81
4. General mine supplies .....	2.35	1.54	0.97	0.57
5. Mine lighting—candles .....	0.62	0.35	0.16	0.16
6. Mine lighting—electric .....	0.72	0.27	0.19	0.16
7. Smithing .....	1.09	1.18	0.96	0.69
8. Shovelage—direct .....	19.66	5.92	0.83	1.11
9. Shovelage—apportioned .....	1.54	0.55	0.48	0.46
10. Timbering—labour .....	0.60	1.23	3.05	0.17
11. Timbering—material .....	3.16	0.12	0.74	0.05
12. Machine drill fittings .....	1.15	1.23	1.02	0.64
13. General mine labour .....	7.81	4.33	2.83	2.11
14. Hoisting underground .....	14.28	7.27	...	0.16
15. Hoisting main shaft .....	2.19	0.92	0.71	0.65
16. Compressed air .....	2.03	1.36	1.54	1.07
17. Mine ventilation .....	1.29	0.81	0.47	0.33
18. Assaying .....	0.01	0.34	0.31	0.18
19. Surveying .....	0.59	0.24	0.23	0.17
20. General expense .....	9.41	4.50	3.70	2.29
Total .....	\$99.16	\$44.93	\$31.12	\$20.37

The table above gives the work done during the year; I may add that this work made the total accomplished up to the close of the year as follows: Main shaft, 917.5 feet; winzes and small shafts, 1,643 feet; raising, 1,841.5 feet; drifting, 11,280 feet.

Beyond being told that all the profit so far made has been spent in improving and equipping the mine and the smelter, the public is left in the dark as to the state of the Le Roi's accounts. After working the property for three years the company has paid \$250,000 in a single 5 per cent. dividend and has equipped its mine and smelter. Presumably the Bank of Montreal debt remains unliquidated somewhere between \$700,000 and \$1,000,000, and in order to estimated what has really been accomplished it will be necessary to see the figures

of the balance sheet, which will doubtless be given when Mr. Frecheville's report is published next month.

The Centre Star and War Eagle have recently been pumped out and work on a small scale has been resumed at both properties. Returns of operations at the Centre Star were presented at the annual meeting in November and show that the indebtedness of the company was reduced from \$180,000 to \$42,000 in addition to which \$105,000 was paid this year in dividends, making a total profit distribution of \$175,000 to date. Work will be confined to development operations for at least six months to come.

At the War Eagle if work on anything like an extensive scale is undertaken the property may yet prove to be a valuable mine. Unlike the Centre Star, which is a single claim, the War Eagle comprises a group of five or six adjoining properties, and tests by diamond drill on the undeveloped ground are said to have afforded very satisfactory results. An amalgamation of all War Eagle-Centre Star properties into one company or the acquirement of these properties by an English syndicate is quite among the immediate possibilities.

After the Le Roi itself, the Le Roi No. 2, once it is out of the Whitaker Wright tangle, is the most promising property in the camp. It has paid one dividend this year of \$144,000, but at present its real financial position is unknown. The mine is both well developed and fairly well equipped.

In a much less degree the same favourable opinion can be expressed of the Rossland Great Western, with this difference, that it has paid no dividend and possibly is not provided with an adequate working capital. The mine has been more or less considerably developed and is equipped with a good power plant of its own. Its future will depend a good deal upon careful management.

The Kootenay mines are the least satisfactory of the B. A. C. promotions. Development has disclosed large bodies of low-grade ore, but unless some means can be devised for treating the output at a lesser cost the mine can not be profitably worked.

The Iron Mask, which was closed down during the summer, is in a somewhat similar position. The money realized by assessing the stock has been expended and although a great deal of development work has been accomplished, no timbering of any consequence has been done and expenditure in this particular would be very considerable. The company has not announced its future plans. Some 3,500 tons of ore were sent to the Trail smelter during the first half of 1901.

But little change has taken place in the position at the I. X. L. during the year. The high-grade ore which has been sent to the Northport smelter has realized well and the proceeds from these sales have been expended in further developing the property.

Very favourable anticipations were entertained in respect to this year's developments at the Homestake mine in the South belt, though they do not appear to have been realised. Large expenditures have been made during the last 12 months in developing the mine and a good body of low-grade ore has been uncovered, according to the interim report of the directorate in October. Further operations, however, were suspended for want of money to continue. It was said, meanwhile, that the trial shipment to the Trail smelter was disappointing.

The Giant mine has been tentatively operated this year with reasonably satisfactory results, the shipments to Trail having also been encouraging. The property has been acquired under London joint stock auspices, which has taken over the property, and under D. J.