

Current Mining News.

Contributions from any part of British Columbia and the mining districts of a reliable nature will be published in these columns, and we request that mining men write us about the progress of the mines of their district. We desire to publish all mining news.

A TEXADA ISLAND SALE.

The Raven Mine, on Texada Island, which is already making a large weekly output, is reported as sold for \$40,000 to J. H. Adams, of Rossland, that gentleman having taken up his bond.

A BIG ROSSLAND SALE.

The No. 1, an undeveloped Rossland property, near the War Eagle and Josie mines, is reported sold to an English syndicate for \$200,000, of which \$50,000 are to be paid down. A big price for what is but a very promising prospect with some little surface working thereon.

A NEW ISLAND CAMP.

Promising copper-gold deposits, containing also some silver, are reported from Mt. Sicker, near Somenos and Duncan's, Vancouver Island. It is stated that the Provincial Mineralogist is favorably impressed by first observations made on the spot, and thinks the district well worth closer investigation and preliminary development. Early assays of samples from the district are stated to show nineteen per cent. copper plus about \$10 a ton in gold and silver.

BAD FOR DONALD.

The little railway town and mining center of Donald is likely soon to be reduced temporarily to very small proportions by the transfer of its machine shops to Revelstoke, which will become a new divisional point. Field will become a minor divisional point, further sheds and stables being there built for the big mountain engines which will there be changed. Donald's future will in the event of these C. P. R. changes depend mainly on local mining development, of which it is not without promise.

NEW OMINECA PLACERS.

Mr. J. D. Wells reports that he and associates are interested in valuable gold gravel deposits in Tom Creek, a Skeena River tributary and district, about 125 miles from Hazelton. A man on his placers can, he says, get out about \$20 in gold per day, and there are also, he believes, good placer opportunities on Nation and other creeks in the same district of the Omineca, which he believes destined in the early future to become the scene of busy placer and hydraulic gravel working with probably some placer mining in addition.

VANCOUVER ISLAND MINING.

Mr. Leslie Jones, who has been for eight months engaged in the west coast mining belt of Vancouver Island, states, as regards that district, that all the way from Sidney Arm to Hesquoit, a distance of six miles, is staked out. Mr. Jones is associated with Messrs. Morris and C. E. Cooper, of Victoria, in the ownership of a number of claims on Bear River, besides six at Hesquoit and three more, which are a continuation of the Jones and Kincaid group on Sidney Arm. On the Jones and Kincaid properties on Sidney Arm 11 men are at work. They have put up a blacksmith shop and cabins, and are now driving in a tunnel on the mine where the lead shows 40 feet wide. On the Grey Mare mine on Bear River, owned by Mr. Jones and his partners, a tunnel 50 feet long has been run in ore with high assay results in gold and copper. The ore is erubescite and copper pyrites, as indeed is most of the ore in the district. Mr. Jones, too, intends to put in a tunnel on the Satanita, another claim of his on Bear River, in the spring. A good deal of interest is being taken in the West Coast mines, as witness the bonding not long ago of two groups of claims on Bear River owned by Mr. Chris. Frank and Mr. Jacobson for \$40,000 and \$25,000, respectively. The lead on the Black Cap, which shipped a ton of ore by the Tees on her last trip, is three feet wide and assays \$67 a ton.

ACETYLENE GOES.

The Nelson Miner states that Mr. J. T. Richardson has introduced the automatic acetylene gas process in Nelson and the light may be seen at Vanstone's drug store. The gas is generated from carbide and water and gives a clear white light equal to about 30 candle power, and is produced at a minimum of cost. It is said to be thoroughly safe and very easily attended. The carbide is made from lime and coke, fused by electricity.

This is probably the first introduction of the brilliant new illuminant into British Columbia. If half what is claimed for it proves true, acetylene gas may yet become a formidable rival of coal gas as an illuminant.

TEXADA SHIPMENTS TO SWANSEA.

Two shipments of Texada Island ore from the Blewett properties have lately been made to the Vivian Company smelters at Swansea, South Wales. Four hundred tons in all were shipped.

It is stated that better prices are realizable on copper shipments sent to Swansea than on like consignments to American smelters, and hoped that, at any rate, until there shall be copper smelting facilities on Burrard Inlet, or at some convenient coast point, coast and gulf island shipments to Swansea will soon be made regularly on a considerable and steadily increasing scale.