

sight and the work of opening up new ground is steadily going on. Sinking is in progress in the main shaft, and the sixth level, at a depth of 600 feet, is being extended. The depth of the shaft is now about 670 feet.

No ore has been shipped as yet from the Thompson ground, the production all being from the Elkton property proper. The record for the last quarter has been over \$15,000 per month and the tonnage of ore handled about 1000 per month. On account of the inability of the reduction plants to handle the enormous tonnage now being sent out from the Cripple Creek district, the Elkton Company has not opened up any of the Thompson but as soon as the ore market is easier the Thompson ground will be developed through the sixth and eighth levels of the Elkton shaft, and when this is accomplished, it is safe to say that the production of the company will be materially increased.

PORTLAND DIVIDEND.

Tuesday was the fifth of the month, and with the regularity of clock work the directors of the Portland Gold Mining company met in the company's offices in this city and declared the regular monthly dividend.

The dividend is at the old rate of two cents per share, making the total \$60,000. The books for the transfer of stock close on the evening of Dec. 9 and on Dec. 15 the checks will be sent out to the fortunate holders of Portland stock. This is the 59th consecutive dividend declared by this company and when it shall have been paid the company will have disbursed over \$2,500,000 to its stockholders, the exact total being \$2,557,080. And in the meantime the treasury reserve grows larger, month by month.

There have been many rumors in regard to Portland and its dividends. Some time ago it was said that the Portland directors would soon start dividends at the rate of five cents per share, but this has not yet come about, although it is generally believed the treasury of the company could stand disbursements at that rate. The latest report is that the company will declare an extra dividend of five cents a share this month as a Christmas present to the stockholders. This may be done, but the report has no official confirmation, and the directors of the company alone can tell what will or will not be done in this regard.

ISABELLA.

Rumors have been rife for the past week to the effect that another exceedingly rich shipment was being made ready to go out from the Isabella territory. As usual, the matter has been kept absolutely quiet by the management, and much speculation as to the correctness of the rumor has been indulged in both here and in Cripple Creek. It was definitely learned upon reliable authority that the shipment will go out very shortly.

Two cars of ore will be marketed which for richness has never been equalled in this camp. One car has been most carefully selected and it is said will run in the neighborhood of \$7,000 per ton. The second car will contain ore of about one-third this value and will in itself represent a fortune. For various reasons, the exact date upon which the shipment will be made is being kept a most closely guarded secret. Following the usual precedent this ore will doubtless be sampled at the Taylor-Brunton works at Victor and settled for by that concern. Needless to say the ore will be carefully guarded from the moment the valuable consignment leaves the mine until it reaches its final destination at the smelter in Denver.

BATTLE MOUNTAIN CONS.

Lessee Stewart who is operating a block of the Trail, of the Battle Mountain Consolidated company, has opened up a good body of ore. The ground included in the lease is 170 feet south of the centre of the claim and 600 feet north of that point. It is said that the lessee has a good body of ore which assays 18 ounces. F. M. Woods, who acted as an investor representative that he had not been at the Trail since the find had been reported, but he considered it very probable that an ore body had been uncovered. The portions of the property not included in this lease are being operated on company account and the company has pay ore in four separate veins on the property.

WORK.

Returns were received Sunday on two shipments sent out by lessees on the Work company's properties. One 42-ton lot, from the Boyd lease on the Morning Glory, was settled for at the rate of 2.46 ounces per ton. The second consignment, from the Carlton lease on the Morning Glory No. 4, consisted of 27 tons which returned 1.17 ounces to the ton.

LEXINGTON AND LITIGATION.

Reported Trouble with E. Potter Gold King Co. Positively denied by Officers of Lexington Co.

Officials of the Lexington Gold Mining Company state in the most positive terms that there is no foundation for the rumors which have been circulated to the effect that litigation is pending between the Lexington and E. Potter Gold King companies. At the offices of the company in this city nothing whatever had been heard of any litigation of any character. Mr. N. H. Frittridge, secretary of the Lexington company, was interviewed and stated that there was no foundation for the rumor whatever.

The report was to the effect that suit was to be brought by the Gold King company against the Lexington for trespass on the Gold King ground. The story had its origin in Cripple Creek and probably came from lessees on the Gold King. The rumor started from the fact that the Lexington company has in preparation a large map of its property and for this purpose have had surveyors in the old King workings, taking measurements of those workings which have been extended into the Gold King territory.

The lessees on the Gold King jumped at the conclusion that these surveys were being made for the purpose of bringing legal proceedings of some character. This conclusion resulted from a lack of knowledge of the facts. There has been a perfect understanding between the two companies as to the work which has been done by the Lexington company on the Gold King ground. In fact, the work consists merely of connection between the workings of the two companies for better ventilation.

The property of the Lexington company was never in better shape than at the present time. A large tonnage of ore is being sent out and all the property of the company is being actively developed, most of the work being on company output. A strike of considerable importance was made some time ago on the south end of the Clara D. claim, but so far nothing has been done toward taking out ore from this point, on account of extensive improvements which are under way. The shaft is being re-timbered from top to bottom and a large force of men is being worked. Notwithstanding these facts all the ore is being shipped that a market can be found for,

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