

mented by Mr. R. H. Bellamy, of Nelson, will put a dredger on the North Thompson in the spring. The values in the Thompson gravels are good and there are also stretches of benches on the North Thompson known to be gold-bearing. Consequently, should the dredging operations in question prove successful it is possible that other placer mining enterprises will be inaugurated.

The Tenderfoot claim is being developed by a local company with marked success. A short tunnel has cut the vein diagonally and is now in 16 feet on ore averaging 6 to 10 per cent. copper, and having also small gold and silver values. The copper occurs as bornite in a gangue of dolomite. Drifting will be commenced as soon as the tunnel is through the vein and the working force will shortly be doubled.

Work has continued steadily at the Python with the exception of a short cessation of work for two days in consequence of the breaking down of the hoist. Some good ore is being met on this claim.

Many of the other prospects have been idle during the winter, but everything points to an active season.

BOUNDARY CREEK.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Three months have elapsed since the C.P.R. construction department assumed charge of the Greenwood end of the Columbia & Western Railway. Shortly afterwards it was announced that the work of construction of branch lines to several mining camps would be hastened and, it was understood, would be completed before the middle of winter. San-guine expectations as to the amount of ore that would be shipped without delay, were thereupon voiced, but unfortunately these have not been realized to any considerable extent. One important cause of this disappointing state of affairs is the non-completion of the branch lines to the mines. Apart

from this though, it must be admitted that only two or three mines are yet prepared to continuously ship ore in quantity. In stating this there is no desire to in any way depreciate the importance of the district but rather to acknowledge as a simple fact that it is still premature to talk or write of Boundary district mines shipping regularly any appreciable large quantity of ore. It is no discredit to the district to admit that its mines are not yet, as a rule, sufficiently developed to allow of their shipping enough ore to keep a smelter running steadily. On the other hand it is distinctly to its credit that it can be claimed that in not less than five of its camps ore is being blocked out and other necessary preparations are being made to maintain a steady output. These are Deadwood Camp, in which the Mother Lode mine is farthest advanced in this respect; Phoenix Camp, with the Old Ironsides, Knob Hill and Victoria the most forward group; Wellington Camp, with the Winnipeg and Golden Crown both opening up stopes; Central Camp, with the City of Paris group now sending out ore, and Summit Camp, which has in the B. C. the only mine in the district that has as yet shipped more than 300 or 400 tons of ore. Long Lake has, in the Jewel, a comparatively well-developed property, but this mine is not included as a probable shipper, for the reason that its gold-quartz ore will be treated near the mine, either by the cyanide or such other process as shall be found most suitable for its reduction.

It must not be supposed though that the few pro-

erties mentioned are all that the Boundary Creek district has to depend upon to contribute to its prospective large output. The list of properties that will probably ship before the close of the current year includes the Sunset, Morrison, Gold Bug and Buckhorn, in Deadwood Camp; the Stemwinder, Brooklyn, Snowshoe, War Eagle and Gold Drop in Phoenix Camp; the No. 7 and Norfolk in Central Camp; the Oro Denoro, Rathmullen, Emma and Mountain View in Summit Camp; the Hartford in Wellington Camp; the Golconda in Smith's Camp, and the Last Chance in Skylark Camp. There are at least a score of others that already give sufficient promise to be classed as possible producers. It is so easy to go far wide of the mark in suggesting what the aggregate output of ore will be after all these properties shall have been developed to a producing stage, but it will do no harm to point out what a low average daily tonnage from each of the twenty-six named above would aggregate. Assume that six months hence an average of twenty tons each per day—and surely that is a low estimate—from these twenty-six mines or claims were assumed, that AS COMPARED WITH ROSSLAND, would give a daily output of 520 tons or say 3,500 tons per week. This

would be at the rate of 182,000 tons per year. Now the report for the year 1899 of the Gold Commissioner for the Trail Creek (Rossland) mining division placed the year's output of that division at 180,300 tons of a total value of \$3,211,400. It will readily be seen then that a liberal reduction may be made both in estimated probable output of this district and in value of same and still leave quantity and value large enough to constitute these together a very important item to demonstrate the producing capabilities of the Boundary Creek mines. And it is by no means a stretch of imagination to think it quite possible the second half of the year 1900 may show returns proportionate to the total here suggested.

Up to the third week in February recent ore shipments from the district were approximately as under: From B. C. mine, say 1,000 tons; from Winnipeg mine, say 200 tons; from Mother Lode mine, say 200 tons; from City of Paris mine, say 200 tons; from Gold Bug mine, say 35 tons; from Last Chance mine, say 20 tons.

The Oro Denoro also sent out some ore and perhaps the Rathmullen, but what quantity and whether any other property sent out a test carload is not now remembered. At any rate it will be quite safe to conclude that by March 1st the aggregate of ore shipments from this district will not have exceeded 2,500 tons and possibly not 2,000 tons. It will be remembered that the probability of discoveries of ore on other properties than those named above has not been taken into account.

A brief summary of the work on the more important mining properties in the district follows. In Dead Camp cross-cutting both ways from the north drift at the 200-foot level has been suspended pending receipt of a cage—to facilitate hoisting—already ordered from the Wm. Hamilton Manufacturing Co. of Peterborough, Ont. The big plant for the Sunset is now nearly all installed; a massive gallow's frame has been built and a strong and roomy building to house the machinery is well advanced towards completion. This plant will shortly be in running order and thereafter development work will be pushed be-