

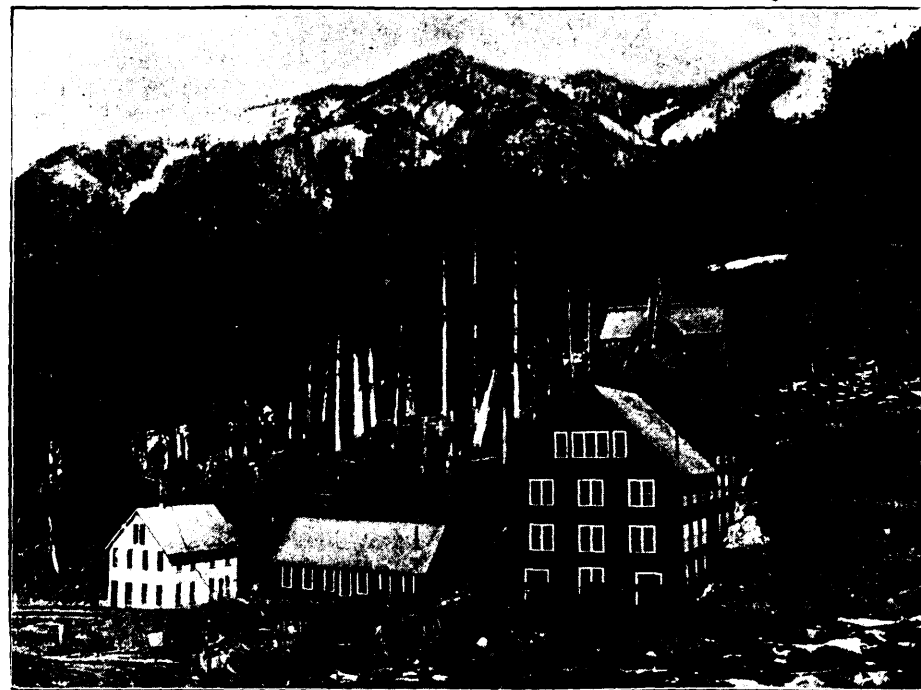
FROM NELSON.

THERE is not very much stirring just at this time in Nelson, the capital of the Kootenay district (with all due respect to Rossland). The "festive season" is over and gone, thank goodness, for another twelve-month, and dull heavy skies with continual snowfalls rather accentuate the feeling that we take our pleasure, far too irregularly; that a more uniform distribution of them over the year, for instance, might be better in every way. Still notwithstanding the dull weather it is not particularly cold, and has not been so far during the winter except perhaps one or two sharp nights when the thermometer probably fell nearly to zero.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The latest sensation, and a very mild one at that, was the election of Mayor and Council for the ensuing year, and to the expressed annoyance of a few but to the satisfaction of the majority last year's Mayor, John Houston, was re-elected by acclamation to serve his city's interests. Opposition is all right, and a little of it no doubt very

necessary and beneficial, but in this case there hardly seemed any great need of a change as things have been managed generally speaking in a very business-like way. We have a good system of waterworks now in going order; an elaborate system of sewers not quite completed, and a very efficient electric lighting plant that illuminates our streets at night.



THE CONCENTRATOR AND TRAMWAY—NOBLE FIVE MINE.

THE SLOCAN RAILWAY.

The completion and opening of the Slocan branch of the C.P.R. (starting at a point about half way between Nelson and Robson, and going to the end of Slocan Lake) has been of great benefit to those properties large and small whose owners wished to send ore to the Hall Mines, and its use will be more apparent as time goes on and the country gets in consequence more opened up. In is indeed to railroads that we must look to advance this country's interests, the best mine in the world will be at a great disadvantage if the ore costs all it is worth to ship and smelt it, and it is all the more to the credit of those mines that packed the ore out in the early days and stuck persistently to the work till attention was called to their wants in a practical way.

The Hall Mines smelter has been working very steadily for some time, the Silver King supplying about 200 to 250 tons of ore daily, and other incipient mines also sending their ore here for treatment. Many mines are being developed in this neighbourhood and district all through the winter, notably perhaps the Athabasca and Fern mines, together with the Delight group close to Nelson, and several very promising though as yet slightly developed claims in the vicinity of Forty-Nine Creek, a few miles west. But it certainly seems as if one of the best camps in the coming year will be at or near Ymir on the N. & F.S. Ry. south of Nelson. The Dundee mine is doing very steady and good work there, though there seem hardly sufficient grounds yet for any marked rise in the value of the shares—people will gamble, however, and they surely have a chance of a run for their money among the mines now being opened up in that locality.

Of course one hears continually of marvellously rich strikes being made—rock with gold sticking out of it on all sides, and so on, but it is well to suspend

judgment until more is known of the matter. Still notwithstanding the genuine doubts one may have about the accuracy of all these stories, there can be no question that often enough very good paying veins may be struck unexpectedly; this country is yet so new and the mines (with one or two exceptions) so very shallow that there is actually little or no experience

to guide the miner as to what he may or may not expect. Time will remedy all this, and even the fascinations extended by the far off and somewhat chilly Klondyke will allure but very few from our known riches to the more problematical ones in the North. Probably the work done during this next year will show that those who stayed at home in civilization were wisest, and it is our earnest wish that this may prove to be the case. A. H. H.

Our Vernon correspondent writes: "The Morning Glory stamp mill has brought forth its first-born in the shape of a small gold brick stated to be worth about \$190. I have heard that the plates of the mill were not properly handled. A meeting is to be convened to discuss the advisability of making a change in the management."