

although a small force at the mine has been kept at development work. It is expected to secure forces so as to have the plants operating at full capacity early this month.

The shipments of concentrates from the decrepitating plant will probably reach about 18 cars a week as soon as a full force is obtained. Concentrates will be shipped to Indiana.

While mining in the Cariboo district holds unlimited opportunities for those prepared to make large preliminary expenditures, caution and careful examination of prospects, is advised by Mr. John Kilmer, mining engineer, who has just returned to Vancouver after spending six months at Antler Creek, twelve miles southeast of Barkerville. One of the chief hindrances to mining development in the northern district, according to Mr. Kilmer, is the amount of mining territory tied up by leases and not being worked.

"If a miner stakes a claim which shows signs of paying good returns, the lessee exercises his Government privilege and takes over the prospect. This has happened so frequently that mining men have been discouraged from attempting any extensive operations," continued Mr. Kilmer. "The department of mines has been aroused to the difficulty of development under such conditions and has taken steps to straighten out the deadlock between miner and lessee."

Dealing with the possibilities of Antler Creek he had no doubt that gold was there and with a large capital expenditure it could be mined in paying quantities. He advocated the hydraulic system as the best for properties in that locality.

"From my observations of the country," he added, "I am inclined to the opinion that the higher leads have not been touched. In many creeks, the only gold recovered was that washed from the upper reaches. The original source has been neglected owing to the difficulty of removing slide rock."

At Keithley Creek, between Quesnel Forks and Barkerville, an American company has bought a lease, and commenced hydraulic operations. In the opinion of Mr. Kilmer, this operation promises good returns if followed to completion. A similar prediction was made for the Waverley

Hydraulic Company, which has commenced extensive work at Grouse Creek. He believed that the completion of the P.G.E. would greatly increase the population, which would in turn result in more intensive and thorough efforts at gold prospecting.

One large company operating on quartz claims, about two miles southeast of Barkerville, had a promising outlook, he said, when the cold weather forced it to abandon its work. In the meantime the lease expired and the operators were unable to obtain a renewal without paying an exorbitant price. As a result the development of this claim has stopped.

A Stewart dispatch of March 25th says: Another shipment of high-grade ore from the Premier mine is loaded on the scow awaiting the next G.T.P. boat to take it south on the way to the Tacoma smelter. The shipment amounts to about 300 tons, which it is reported will average close to \$300 a ton.

Work at the big mine is progressing satisfactorily and a season of steady operation is looked forward to following the settlement of differences between the men and management. The machinery for the concentrator plant has been hauled up the hill and will be installed soon.

At the Big Missouri the summer's supplies are being taken as far as possible over the snow to a cache from which they will be packed in during the summer. Toboggans are being used.

The Sterling Mining Co., of Vancouver, has purchased the Grandview group on Marmot River. It is expected that Marmot section will see much activity this season. The Grandview adjoins the Fraser group, purchased last week by O. B. Bush and associates.

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COAL LAND REPORTS.

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PRINCETON, B.C.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Mineral Province of Western Canada

TO END OF DECEMBER, 1918

Has produced Minerals valued as follows: Placer Gold, \$75,436,103; Lode Gold, \$97,121,786; Silver, \$46,839,631; Lead, \$42,294,251; Copper, \$145,741,060; Other Metals (Zinc, Iron, etc.), \$13,278,058; Coal and Coke, \$187,147,652; Building Stone, Brick, Cement, etc., \$28,843,272; Miscellaneous Minerals, \$651,759; making its Mineral Production to the end of 1918 show an

Aggregate Value of \$637,353,581

Production for Year Ending December, 1918, \$41,782,474

The Mining Laws of this Province are more liberal and the fees lower than those of any other Province in the Dominion, or any colony in the British Empire.

Mineral locations are granted to discoverers for nominal fees.

Absolute Titles are obtained by developing such properties, the security of which is guaranteed by Crown Grants.

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