

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.

VANCOUVER'S SMELTER.

There is still no definite news to hand announcing the formation of the proposed London company, and it begins to appear as though a hitch has again occurred in bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

ANOTHER CARIBOO MINE DIVIDEND.

The directors of the Cariboo mine at Camp McKinney, the pioneer free-milling gold mine of the Province, have now declared another dividend of \$16,000, equivalent to 2 per cent. This brings to the respectable total of \$189,000 the dividends paid by the mine.

POORMAN RETURNS.

The Trail smelter returns from the first shipments of two cars of ore from this mine, representing a weight of thirty-six tons, are now to hand, showing a value of \$706 66 or \$19 58 per ton. Four more cars of ore are now en route to the smelter, and meanwhile the mine is being worked by a modest force of four men.

NELSON SHIPMENTS.

Nelson and its subports shipped during November ore matte and bullion of a value of \$824,362, of which \$359,375 represented the worth of ore exported, \$436,517 that of matte shipped, and \$28,470 the value of the bullion exports. The figures indicate steady advance all round in precious metal mining in the district of which Nelson is the export center.

THE WAR EAGLE.

This noted Rossland mine is apparently again on the eve of better things, judging by reports recently to hand to the effect that rich ore deposits have again been struck and will soon be developed. Greater depth of working is, it is stated, making prospects very much more hopeful and removing some of the doubts cast upon the mine, as a result of far from assuring directorial statements and advance predictions, bearing their own refutation on their face. The War Eagle owners now declare that they have no longer any intention of putting up a smelter, and are apparently awaiting the action of the C.P.R. capitalists in this direction. Shipments from the mine continue small, pending the provision of cheaper facilities of transport and treatment.

THE C.P.R. AND EAST KOOTENAY'S LEADING MINES.

At a meeting of the trustees of the Sullivan Group Mining Company last week, held at the office of the Le Roi, in Spokane, it was reported upon reliable information, that surveyors of the Canadian Pacific are running lines up Mark Creek and the St. Mary's River, from the main line of the Crow's Nest Pass road to the North Star and Sullivan group mines. Officials of the Canadian Pacific have stated that this branch will be built next year. Another discovery of galena and carbonate ore was reported on the Sullivan group, and the company is figuring on letting a contract for fifty feet more of shaft work. The company owns three claims—the Hope, Hamlet and Shylock, in the Fort Steele country. The shareholders, who are largely composed of well-known Le Roi men, including Senator Turner, Col. W. W. D. Turner, Colonel Ridpath, Major Armstrong and Colonel I. N. Peyton.

THE PROPOSED SMELTER COMBINE

At the conference of leading smelter men and refineries recently held in New York, it became clear that a big combine is intended to be formed which mining men interested particularly in silver will in their own interest be compelled to watch closely. Those present at the conference said:

"We are meeting simply for the purpose of creating harmony and union among the smelters. It is true that we are looking toward consolidation, but not consolidation in the sense of a silver trust. What we want to do is to establish the smelting and refining companies into joint agencies, so that the prepared metal may have readier sale. Our idea is to have a committee in which each company will be represented, which shall indicate where each amount of stock shall be placed. Each company being of equal standing with the others and having equal authority, there will be no such severe competition as there has been in our former experiences."

On the other hand it is said the object is to form if possible a combination selling agency to control the price of silver futures. The price of silver for future delivery is always less than the price for cash silver, and the smelters want to equalize prices.

It is said that the smelters hope by their combination to stiffen the price of silver and eventually reduce the output, although they deny the report that they intend to try to form a silver trust.

The following companies were represented at the conference: Omaha and Grant Smelting and Refining Company, Kansas City Consolidated Smelting and Refining Company, Chicago and Aurora Smelting and Refining Company, Pueblo Smelting and Refining Company, Great National Mexican Smelting Company of Monterey, Mex., and Alius Cante, Mex.