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ROSSLAND,

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MINING NOTES.

It is good news that John Taylor, of London, is sending a representative to British Columbia. His firm is easily the first firm of mining financiers in London. It does not belong to the mushroom growth stimulated by unhealthy activity in the Rand and Western Australia, but to the most conservative element of the greatest mining center on earth.

Messrs. Gooderham and Blackstock are on their way back to Canada, if they have not already arrived home. Whether their visit to London was connected with their mining interests in British Columbia has not yet transpired.

Brokers in Toronto and Montreal all complain of the exceeding dullness of the mining market. Those who are connected with good companies will have no reason to complain long, and those who are connected with bad companies require and deserve a good firm rap over the knuckles.

Mr. Grant Govan has been working the paid interview business in London. Horne Payne and Grant Govan should go into partnership. What a daisy team they would make.

Every year the value of a Trail Creek prospect increases and the grade of ore necessary to give it value diminishes—a good guarantee of a solid camp.

Homestake stock is being absorbed by inside parties, which looks as though its flotation in London was progressing favorably.

The Alberta comes to the front with a great strike of mineral. The mine has been ably developed, and the successful outcome gives more confidence than ever to the productive capacity of Monte Cristo and C. & K. mountains.

The payroll on the Kootenay mine is being increased and ~~every place round the mine is blocked up~~ with ore. The marvelous showing in the tunnel is the wonder of everyone who sees it.

There is no older favorite in Rossland than the Great Western, the first property in Trail Creek tackled by J. M. Burke. From present appearances it looks as though immense bodies of pay ore would be opened up on the property.

The pile of rich ore accumulating on the dump of the Nickel Plate mine is a sight for sore eyes.

The Consolidated War Eagle Company intends to put up a mill. They are only waiting till the railway situation becomes more distinct.

Before the end of this year Rossland will be connected by allrail communication with Slocan City.

A Slocan paper publishes the news that the Rossland tinhorn mining men have invaded the Slocan. Doubtless they will buy Slocan properties for cash, as they did Rossland ones, and proceed to make mines of them.

The Ibex tunnel is now in 140 feet, and although the lead has not been struck some fine looking rock has been taken out.

Buck & Bouillon have issued a map of the Boundary and Kettle River camps, showing a large number of claims.

Three shifts are working on the Gold Bar, twelve men having been sent out on Thursday.

Frank Watson was in the camp yesterday.

The new machinery on the Red Eagle has been turned over by the contractor, and everything is running smoothly. The machinery consists of a complete hoisting, pumping and power drill plant with a guaranteed capacity to sink 500 feet.

Work on the Cromwell claim, owned by the Cromwell Mining and Development Company, will be pushed on a more extensive scale as soon as the snow will permit.

An interesting commission case was up before the present session of the county court. The plaintiff

(Dean) sued the owners of the Trilby and Prince of Wales for a commission on the sale of the property, on the ground that he had obtained a twenty-four-hour option on the strength of a telegram from possible purchasers in Victoria, and during the continuance of the option had talked about the property to the man who afterwards did buy it through another party. The case was dismissed with costs.

KAMLOOPS CAMP.

The Toronto World has a very fair description of the gold-copper prospects discovered last summer near Kamloops and now in course of development.

"Inasmuch as fully 99 per cent. of British Columbia mineralized areas are yet unexplored, the expectation all along has been that a greater Rossland might be discovered any day, and there are those who say that such a region has already been come upon near Kamloops. That extraordinarily rich ores should exist in unrivalled quantities, within three or four miles of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and in one of the best settled and, from the rancher's standpoint, one of the best known as it is one of the most accessible districts, seems at first sight strange, but it is easily explained. The whole section, even to the tops of the mountains, from 3000 to 4000 feet high, is covered with soil and bunchgrass. Herds of cattle and wild horses feed the year round, and whoever thought of looking in a pasture field for mines? No one. Hence no mines were found.

"In company with Mr. Thomas Newman, a World correspondent spent several days in driving (think of that, ye miners in Rat Portage and the Kootenay) in a buggy behind a spanking team, from one claim to another.

"During the trip the World correspondent passed through or close by more than fifty promising claims, and saw enough to satisfy him that the rush to Kamloops will not be in vain. This camp is more of a temptation 'to stay awhile and enjoy life' than any other we have visited, and prospects of undoubted value are still plentiful, more records being made every week than elsewhere, the camp being only little more than six months old. Mr. Newman says he was the first mining man to take hold here, and that he came only in August last, which perhaps accounts for his securing the Iron Mask."

CHINESE PLACER MINERS.

The amount of gold taken out of British Columbia in the past by the Chinese is hinted at in the annual report for 1896 of the minister of mines. Referring to one section alone where the Chinese were at work, the report says: "In December, 1887, A. W. Smith reported his purchase of gold for that year at \$65,696, a large proportion of which was from the Chinese claims on Cayoosh creek. In 1888 his purchase amounted to close on \$60,000, seven-eighths of which was estimated to be from Cayoosh creek. In 1889 the amount bought by Mr. Smith dropped to \$39,000, with the exception of about \$100 worth, all bought from the Chinese miners. Summed up, the Chinese were the discoverers of gold in Cayoosh creek. From Mr. Smith's accurate returns we find that he bought from them in three years gold amounting to, in round figures, say \$103,000. To be well within the mark, allow one-half of that amount as carried away with them, and we have a total of \$154,500 for the three years. The whole of this was taken from, say, five miles of the creek."

THE CANADA MUTUAL.

With the opening of spring many properties not worked during the winter will resume development work. Among the prominent companies to which this applies is the Canada Mutual Mining and Development Company, which is about to begin operations on the Minnie, a promising Red Mountain prospect. This company is also about to establish camps on the Little Giant group on Lookout Mountain, and on the Beaconsfield on Deer Park Mountain. All these properties were acquired recently by this company, which is well officered.