

one's disposal for several years, and no one had enough faith in the proposition to locate it. It will pay the prospectors of Cariboo to keep an eye out for quartz and to investigate any rational proposition that they come across. The demand for quartz is good and any fair proposition can be readily handled.—*Mining Journal*.

ALBERNI.

The Alberni district is to-day a scene of very considerable excitement and of an excitement which seems thoroughly warranted by the assays of such reliable men as Mr. W. Pellew Harvey, of Vancouver. Prospectors are at work all through the district and a large number of valuable quartz ledges have been located and are being opened up by the locators. Money is being put in by Victoria, Nanaimo, Wellington and some outside capitalists. A second stage has been started on the Alberni road and the Indians are kept pretty busy taking new comers down the canal to China, Granite and Coleman Creeks. The Coleman Creek rock is the queerest looking stuff that ever carried gold. Men seem in doubt as to its true nature. Some of it looks like conglomerate, other parts like rotted slate with thin veins of quartz running through it. It seems to be pockety, though the experts declare that the few unsatisfactory assays which have been made are of rock taken from a "horse" which pushes through the mineral bearing rock. Some of this rock is so soft that you can crumble it in your hands, and from this we have seen wonderful pans made. The assays on Coleman Creek go from a trace to \$480, and there is a hill side of the stuff. It is rumored that another strike of the same kind of ore has been made on the Canal, and it is known that an extremely extensive quartz ledge has been struck upon Sproat River. This ledge, which is being rapidly developed, is opened now for forty feet and is said to be some twenty or thirty feet wide. The rock on the top was soft and had a large proportion of lime in it, but now, at a depth of nine feet, it is harder and darker, carrying an unusually large proportion of small iron pyrites and looking much like that favorite property, the Star of the West. The assays obtained from it were from Platt, of New York, \$11, \$14 and \$60, and from Price, of San Francisco, \$4. Mr. Pellew-Harvey's assays, upon which all Alberni men are beginning to base their opinion of quartz, are not to hand yet. This property is magnificently situated with regard to water power and road facilities and improves with every blast. It is said that the dispute as to the ownership of the rich Alberni claims, the Chicago and Warspite, will be settled in court next month, the money for litigation, having been found on both sides. Claim jumping has already begun here, nine hydraulic claims having been jumped last week. Some nuggets I saw brought in by Chinamen from Sproat River last week were enough to make men hunger for claims to jump.—*Nelson Miner*.

LILLOOET MINES.

On Cayuse Creek three shifts of men, under Mr. Hughes, the superintendent, are hard at work developing the Bonanza quartz mine. The company to whom it is bonded have agreed to spend \$15,000 in prospecting, and already there are 500 tons of ore on the dump. The ore is free milling, running in gold from \$8 to \$200 a ton, and some of it much higher. Work will go ahead all winter, and should the results be satisfactory a mill will be erected for treating the ore. The same company have a bond on the Vancouver Enterprise placer claim on Cayuse Creek. The old company spent \$36,000 in development work, and, as soon as pumps can be got in, winzes will be sunk in the tunnels already made, so that bedrock may be reached. The property looks well and should pay. The Bridge River Gold Mining Co., on Horse Shoe Bend, have twenty-five men at work making a cut to change the river bed. When the cut is finished the company will have a quarter of a mile of river channel, which is known to have very rich pay dirt, to work. The cut is being pushed to completion as rapidly as possible.

Some new quartz strikes have been made on Anderson Lake. Four of these, belonging to Messrs. Peter D. Frazer and Wm.

Allan, show on the surface quartz running \$18 in gold and \$5 in silver and growing rapidly richer as depth is attained. The ore is partly free milling and partly sulphurets. Several other new claims have been recently taken up there also.

A new company, with English capital, has just taken up the McDonald and Hurley placer leases back of the town, beside Lillooett hydraulic lease and five leases on the east side of the Fraser. They will run a ditch at a cost of \$40,000, to bring the water from Cayuse creek to work the leases. The ground has already been thoroughly prospected and work is going right ahead. The new telegraph line from Ashcroft to Lillooet is now half completed, and will be ready for operation about the middle of October.

Alberni.

(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT TO THE RECORD.)

The mountains of Vancouver Island are comprised within what is known to geologists as the Vancouver Range, being the most westerly of the four great ranges of British Columbia grouped under the Cordilleras.

The Vancouver Range is similar in many respects to the Gold Range which has produced most of the mineral wealth of British Columbia. The Alberni settlement is situated at the head of the Alberni canal and is easily reached by stage from Nanaimo, sixty miles, and by steamer from Victoria, deep draught vessels being able to unload freight, even heavy machinery, at the wharf within fifteen miles of the mines. Starting from the Alberni settlement you proceed by a pack trail a distance of about fifteen miles, following the banks of China Creek to its intersection by Mineral Creek. The trail passes over a comparatively level country along which a good wagon road could be easily built; the Provincial Government no doubt will build a road to the mines when active operations there justify the same. China Creek has been worked for its alluvial gold as far back as 1862, principally by Chinamen, by the most primitive methods with very profitable results. Companies are now being organized to work the entire length of the creek.

The following results are from a few pans taken by your correspondent from the "Duke of York" claim; one pan from hill side, thirteen colors; one pan from hill side, twenty colors; one pan from moss, growing on boulders at side of creek, thirty colors fine gold; one pan nearedge of stream twenty-seven colors; and one pan from ground already washed by Chinamen, thirteen small colors; in many cases the gold is found with quartz adhering to it.

The locations mentioned in this letter are reached by a steep ascent up Mineral Hill, which is covered by magnificent timber for mining purposes, mostly cypress or yellow cedar.

The water on the hill is abundant for all ordinary purposes, and is considered by many sufficient for mill power.

Of the many claims located on Mineral Hill, the Alberni shows an immense body of ore heavily mineralized, and very high assays have been made, ranging from \$15 to \$117 per ton (this on good authority), the latter being obtained from a rich pay streak, which runs from nine inches at surface to two feet at a depth of twenty feet. An open cut in Hillside, about twenty feet by six feet, wide shows lead very clearly, and the openings on other claims would indicate that the Mineral Hill contains large bodies of ore, which could be taken out and delivered at will on smelter at foot of hill for less than \$1 per ton. Supplies can be taken in at a very low rate of freight and should not exceed one cent per lb., and work can be prosecuted all the year round. It would be hard to find an easier country to work, as the mountain rises more than 3,400 feet above the sea level at an angle of forty-five degrees, so that the ore can be moved by means of tunnels instead of shafts.

The following are some of the claims in this district:

"Ophir."—No development.

"Vancouver."—No development.