

several ladders in the mines of British Columbia over a hundred feet in length, many of them nearly plumb, and one is over five hundred feet long. Imagine the consequences of a slip, or of a bucket getting out of its "ways" when a number of men were travelling either up or down the shaft. Yet so careless and thoughtless are some managers, that three young ladies were actually taken down one of the deepest and most dangerous of these shafts, and the ore buckets were whirling past them at intervals all the way down.

The ropes and other tackle at present used on sinking pits need to be greatly strengthened, and the various parts should be renewed before they are too far worn.

The storage and use of explosives has received little or no attention in this country. Hundreds of pounds of giant powder are not infrequently stored at a mine in one of the driftways. In fact, some mines have no other store, while at most of them the stores are very imperfectly built and not sufficiently far away from dwellings or workshops.

The use of tape-fuse, so common in this country, leads to very frequent accidents from what is known as "hanging fire." In case of a "misfire," miners should not be allowed to return to their workings for at least twenty minutes. Then, if the fuse should happen to be hanging fire, it has sufficient time either to die out, or to resume its "run" and explode the charge before the men return.

The untamping of holes that have missed should be strictly forbidden. It is a most dangerous practice, and one that is quite unnecessary if the holes be properly tamped. A charge can easily be exploded through ten or twelve inches of tamping by placing a little explosive on the top of it.

I have only mentioned a few of the matters needing immediate attention; but as the mines develop, many others will present themselves, not the least of which are the precautions necessary to secure efficient ventilation and ample supports to the workday places.

Experience in other countries has shown that the only way of securing, generally, the discipline necessary to safe working in mines is by act of parliament, the principal rules to be observed being clearly set out in such act, and severe penalties imposed for their breach either by workmen or employers.

It is to be hoped that the legislature, during its present session, may make an opportunity of dealing thoroughly with this subject, affecting as it does so closely the welfare of such a large proportion of the community.

J. D. KENLAL.

IT IS TEXADA CITY.

The more development work is done upon Texada Island the greater has become the certainty that upon the island there are other properties besides the now famous Van Anda and the Victoria mines that will turn out remarkably well and bring up the amount of ore shipped soon to very large proportions. Among these companies are the Raven and Copper and Gold Companies' group, consisting of the Raven, Joan and Chief, and the Spratt Copper & Gold Company's claims, the Sampson, Peacock and Iron Mask. All of the development work done by these two companies has been placed upon the Raven, it being the first of these claims located. The shaft on the Raven is now down 65 feet, with 8 feet of ore, from which two satisfactory shipments have been made. A correspondent writes:

"I am informed that the assay value of the ore from the shaft assays \$24 per ton. Tunnel No. 1 has been driven in 125 feet on the south of the creek, and about 85 feet lower than the outcrop at the shaft. On the north side tunnel No. 2 was driven 65 feet to crosscut the vein which it intersected. They then tunneled to the left and drifted on the vein, and last week were in 35 feet in 6 feet of free copper ore with only the hanging wall in sight. This wall pitches to the south and has a dip of about 80 degrees. A shaft and ore house, fan and blacksmith shop have been completed, and the site for the engine is being levelled. A good wagon road has been built from the bay 1,000 feet to the Raven shaft, and also extends further south to the Sampson and Joan discoveries.

"The Raven shaft is about 100 feet above sea level, the formation being porphyry and iron capping carrying copper pyrites. On the Sampson and Joan the iron capping shows fine copper pyrites on the surface. The largest iron outcrops are seen upon the Chief and Iron Mask. The Raven lead, as it is now called, has been located by actual surveys for one and a half miles, and claims have been staked on the extension running southeasterly for three miles. The prospectors have travelled the lead and found iron capping for five miles, the last find being the Faith and Charity, staked by Messrs. Cotton and Heyland.

"Timber is plentiful and easy of access, and McLeod creek, which flows through the Raven property, affords good water power for the various purposes for which it may be needed. On the adjoining properties, the Butterfly, Woodpecker, Castaway, Sandfly and Comet, the individual owners are busy doing their assessment work and have struck good copper ore. Now that the north end of the island is about all started the prospectors have begun to work toward the south end, and quite a number of locations have been started during the past two months. The weather is now settled and the season

on Texada, and the certainty that there will be very lively times there in the future, has led to the plotting of a town-site, and the lots are now upon the market. The name of the town is Texada City. It is on Sturt bay, which is practically the only harbor on the island, and closely adjoins the Van Anda mines, which will ship from it. A good wharf is now in course of erection at the bay, and a beginning has been made at road-making. A hotel is in course of erection, and it is to be a present to the first 300 purchasers of lots, who will themselves decide as to the manner in which the ultimate ownership of it shall be settled. One of these 300 purchasers will own the hotel, which will cost \$5,000. There ought to be a good town on Texada island. Almost every steamer brings word of new discoveries. One of the latest is a 7-foot ledge of gold and copper ore. One sample assayed \$40 in gold. It has not yet been tested for percentage of copper, but the indications are that it will run very high. Everything at present indicates that Texada's time has come.

HOT WORDS FROM THE PULPIT.

Rev. J. C. Speer preached on the Sunday car question in Toronto the day after the defeat of the proposed law, from the text, "Prophesy unto us who it is that smote thee." Extracts of his sermon as published in the *Toronto Star* appear below:

Calaphas, the high priest, represented the mayor of Jerusalem, and Christ was taken before him, and it was he who gave the signal when the mob rushed on Christ and smote Him. Christ represented labor. He was the carpenter's son. He represented youth, the old and new testament and the Christian church. The man that smites the laborer smites Jesus Christ. The laborer had been smitten in being made to work more than he should. Christ represented His apostles and ministers who faithfully and honestly, according to their ability, discharged the duties laid upon them.

The first man that struck Christ was a Jew, who thought he had come to pull down his institutions. In yesterday's contest we had the Jew, and we should have a great deal of Christian charity for the Jew who voted against Sunday cars. He looked upon Saturday as his day, and took his revenge in smiting the religion of Christ, but the Jew would have voted for his Saturday Sabbath. He did what I would expect him to do, and what I would do in his place.

I am told that the street car people registered the very travellers at the hotels and had them vote for Sunday cars. They needed no badge to know them. They carried their colors in their countenances. Christ was smitten in the face by a class that is becoming too numerous nowadays, and it is a great pity that such men should be armed

The Critic office was visited this week by Messrs. William C. Haywood, G. J. Schohan and Samuel Henry Hayes, prominent in British Columbia mining circles. They were most hospitably of the