

A discovery of some importance to B. C. was made early in the month at Matsqui, near Vancouver. A Mr. F. S. Maclure, when digging in the side of a hill slope, came upon a body of blue clay, of fine texture and plasticity, the analysis of which corresponds closely with that of the best English fire clays. Should the burning tests show the clay to be free from shrinkage, cracks and fluxing, B. C. will have a local source of supply for all refractory material needed.

The Imperial Coal & Coke Company, whose areas are on Fording River, a tributary of the Elk, have been working twenty men, under the superintendence of Mr. W. R. Wilson, for several months past, chiefly in exploring the outcrops. This company is putting in a winter camp for tunnelling work. Seventeen seams of coal have been uncovered, ranging from four to thirty feet in thickness, and the tests are said to be satisfactory. This property adjoins that of the C.P.R., and if the latter should construct a branch line it will serve both.

The Standard Mining Co., operating the Hunter V. Mine at Ymir, have decided to put in a concentrating plant in consequence of a change in the character of their ore. The mine belongs to a Nelson syndicate, and was financed in Montreal and Scotland. The ore is low grade, but of enormous extent. It is worked as a quarry, and values have ranged from \$3.50 to 4.00. Recently the ore has become more silicious and the values have increased, hence the proposed change in the method of handling. At present the ore is shipped in bulk, either to the Hall mines smelter or to Granby; the tonnage shipped is about fifty tons a day.

The C. P. R. have done a considerable amount of development work on their coal claims on the Upper Elk River, fifty to sixty miles north of Fernie. The result of the season's work will shortly be known, but from the fact that surveys have been made for a branch line from Michel it is reasonable to conclude that the first promise of this important find has been fulfilled. A winter camp has been established and work will be continued in the several tunnels which have been started. The seams are, in the opinion of experts, a continuation of Fernie seams, and as was expected the coal at the face of the tunnels is cleaner than the first samples taken from the outcrops. Several recent analyses give as low as seven per cent. in ash, and may still improve, in which case clean coke is assured.

#### YUKON.

The Yukon filled with ice on the 24th of October, and navigation for 1904 has closed.

Application for 2,000 inches of water from Australia Creek has been made by the Gold Run Klondyke Company, for use on its properties situated on the right limit of Dominion Creek.

The first ice seen this fall in the Yukon was noticed on Sunday, the 18th of September. The first ice in 1903 was seen on October 13th, thus making this fall season nearly a month earlier than last year.

Press reports credit R. G. McConnel, of the Geological Survey, with the statement that the Mount St. Elias range, in the Western Yukon country, will be found to contain valuable gold deposits.

The purchase price of Gold Hill claims sold by A. B. Palmer to the White Channel Gold Hill Hydraulic, Limited, is stated to have been \$562,500.00. The new company has a capital of \$575,000.00, and the inference is that the bulk of the price was paid in shares.

The Norwood ditch on upper Bonanza has been completed. Siphons have been employed in crossing all the depressions, thus saving length of ditch. These siphons are made of sheet steel, twenty-four inches in diameter. The head afforded by the ditch is four hundred feet.

The new Government road on Sulphur extending from 31 to 80 below, a distance of about five miles, was finished Sept. 15th, and will be a great convenience to the miners of Lower Sulphur, who have been practically isolated in the summer so far as getting supplies, etc., to their claims.

A correspondent of the Vancouver "News Advertiser" writing from White Horse, makes use of the worn excuse that miners are leaving the Yukon because legislation is "unfair;" legislation in the territory may be inadequate, or it may be corrupt, but it is as "fair" for one man as another.

A new road is to be built on Clear Creek, from Barlow to Discovery, a distance of about fifteen miles. Clear Creek is the worst creek in the Yukon District for overflowing its banks, causing the necessity of wading waist deep in midwinter. During the summer months supplies are taken in via steamer to McQuestion, a distance of about 24 miles, and then packed across on horses when the trail is hard and dry, at a cost of from 10 to 11 cents a pound.

Figures obtained from the comptroller at Dawson show that so far in 1904 royalty has been paid on \$8,500,000 of gold sent out, or exported. These figures do not include Forty Mile nor White Horse districts, re-

turns from which for September had not been received. The gold exported thus far is as follows:

January .....	\$85,895.55
February .....	107,417.10
March .....	138,740.40
April .....	60.00
May .....	836,606.10
June .....	2,697,598.70
July .....	1,300,250.55
August .....	1,539,518.40
September .....	1,887,646.80
Total .....	\$8,593,733.60

#### FOREIGN.

For the month of August, the consumption was 9,352 tons against 6,150 tons for August, 1903.

The Finnish asbestos industry is confined to three or four deposits situated in the centre of Finland.

The German consumption of foreign copper for the first eight months of 1904 was 68,872 tons, an excess of 19,742 tons over the same period for 1903.

The amount of iron ore to be forwarded from the Lake Superior mines this season will reach 20,000,000 tons, some 8,000,000 tons less than the record in 1902.

The yield of gold from the Rand for the month of September totalled 312,286 ounces, valued at \$6,632,500.00, which is practically the same as for the month of August. The importation of coolie labor does not seem to have been productive of results as yet, though its effects are looked for very shortly.

## COAL NOTES.

The shipments of the Dominion Coal Company for the nine months ending September 30th, 1904, aggregated 2,354,779 tons, as against 2,418,123 tons for the same period in 1903.

During the first nine months of this year the receipts of coal at Boston from Great Britain amounted to only 401,958 tons; in 1903 for the same period Boston imported 1,074,035 tons.

Dominion No. 1 colliery made almost a record output this month; in one day's work there were 2,300 tons put out, which is the record since the fire, and nearly up to the record before the fire occurred.

Construction work on the Fernie and Morrissey branch of the great Northern Railway has uncovered forty feet of coal on the Morrison claim, near Morrissey, B. C. The land is owned by the Western Oil and Coal Company of Vancouver.

The International Coal & Coke Company is now producing over 500 tons per day. The work now nearing completion will enable an output of 4,000 tons daily to be handled if such an amount should ever be needed. The bulk of the output now making is sold to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The anthracite mines near Banff, Alberta, are shipping about 300 tons daily; of this amount 200 tons are of sizes larger than nut, and 100 tons are of smaller size. Between 400 and 500 men are employed at the mines, but the majority of these are tradesmen used in construction work. The bulk of hard coal shipments go to the Province of British Columbia.

Operations at the collieries of the French company operating at Blairmore, B.C., were discontinued on the first of October in compliance with peremptory orders from Paris. The announcement was a surprise inasmuch as large amounts of French capital have been invested, and the property was doing well. It is surmised by the officials at Blairmore that orders to suspend operations are the result of an internal disagreement among the officials of the company in France, but no authoritative reason has leaked to this side.

## NEW COMPANIES.

#### ONTARIO.

The Niagara Quarry Company Limited. Head office, Orillia, Ont. Capital, \$40,000. Provisional directors:—James Brockett Tudhope, William Hugh Tudhope, William Thompson, George Thompson and Andrew Craig of Orillia.