ON THE PORCUPINE

Extensive Development Work and an Encouraging Showing.

BRIDGE OVER THE SALMON

Structure Is Completed — Spans the River at the Mouth of Porcupine Creek—Two Postmasters Appointed for Ymir—A Ridiculous Muddle.

YMIR, Aug. 2.—[Special.]—The footbridge across the Salmon river from the railway track to the mouth of Porcupine creek is now finished. The work was done by Messrs. Lloyd and Thompson, of the Porcupine claim and some other holders of property on Porcupine creek. I visited the claim on Saturday last and found the work on the property being pushed vigorously. The ledge on which work is being done on the property is, I believe, one of the largest and richest in the country. It runs right down to the edge of the creek, where a width of 125 feet has been stripped. From any point along the face thus exposed highly mineralized rock may be knocked off, while back from the creek the ledge can be located through the entire extent of the claim and also into the Porcupine extension, which lies on the other side of the creek, and is held by the same owners.

High Grade Ore.

The principal values are in antimonious silver and galena. In some of the specimens I picked up almost pure brittle silver could be seen in large veins. Assays taken have given from 107 to 344 ounces in silver and 25 per cent in lead, besides which from the look of the iron in the rock a pretty high value in gold is expected, although no assays for gold have yet been taken. Considerable work has been done on the property, a crosscut tunnel having been driven 104 feet, and a tunnel following the lead 50 feet. At the present moment a new tunnel, which is now in 12 feet on the ledge, is being worked. Altogether there is no doubt that the Porcupine is destined to be one of the best mines in this vicinity. It is admirably situated for cheap working, the entrance to the tunnel being only a few feet from the creek, which would afford ample power for a concentrator. An easy trail leads from the property down to the river, across the new bridge to the railway, a distance of about a mile and a half.

The Mine Not Bonded.

Early in the spring of this year a report was circulated in Rossland that the Porcupine had been bonded to Mr. E. L. Clark of Rossland, for $60,000. I am authorized to contradict this report. The facts of the case are as follows: Mr. Clark signed an agreement with the owners to take up a bond on the property for the above mentioned sum, the first payment on which was to be made on the first of June. Prior to that date however, Mr. Clark left for Winnipeg on business for the Elise mine and has since taken no notice of the agreement to which he appended his signature. Frequent letters from the owners to him have failed to elicit any reply and as his time has now long since expired he has now no lien upon the property.

Two Postmasters Appointed.

A curious complication has arisen with regard to the postoffice business of this town. About a fortnight ago Mr. J. C. Allen, J. P., received his official appointment as postmaster for Ymir. Since then he has received several communications confirming his appointment and also received a set of mail bags. Acting upon the strength of his appointment, he proceeded to arrange matters for conducting the postal service, amongst other things, going to the expense of having sorting boxes made. Last week, however, Mr. John McLeod, the popular merchant of this town, who had hitherto managed the postal business unofficially, received an official appointment to the postmastership, together with full instructions for the immediate establishment of a full postal service. As I reported some time ago a petition was got up in the town praying that Mr. McLeod might be awarded the appointment, as he had hitherto defrayed express charges on the mail bags at his own expense, and it appears that the petition had its hoped-for result in obtaining him the appointment. While it seems to have caused great satisfaction that Mr. McLeod now has the appointment, it is felt that Mr. Allen has been very hardly dealt with by this entirely unwarranted muddling by the postal autnorities. The postoffice opens business today.

Wagon Road to the Ymir Mine.

The London and British Columbia Gold Fields, Limited, is calling for tenders to build about four and one-half miles of wagon road from Ymir to the Ymir mine, which will help the townsite very materially, giving employment to a large number of men. Specifications can be seen at Smith & Dean's office, 39 Columbia avenue, Rossland, and also at their branch office here.

A party of experts from Rossland, including Messrs. Weeks and Kennedy, were in town last week and examined the Dundee mine. They also visited the Evening Star, owned by Flynn and Aurdle, and were greatly impressed by the look of the property, the great strike upon which, noticed in my last letter, was made made only a few days before their arrival.

An Unidentified Corpse.

Yesterday it was reported that a man had died in a cabin about two miles from town. Constable Forrester and Justice Buckworth went down and brought the corpse to town. It appears that he entered a cabin which belongs to a section man some days ago and remained there too sick to move. Thinking he was stronger the owner of the cabin left him for a time whilst he went up to Hall. On his return he found he had been dead about an hour. The deceased is an old man of about 80 years of age, but nobody in town knows him. Constable Forrester took the corpse to Nelson where it now lies still unidentified.

Bergron Gets Back at Rooney.

A countercharge in the case of Bergron vs. Rooney, which was heard in Rossland some days ago, was heard here The charge against Bergron in Rossland was dismissed, and he brought a countercharge against Rooney for stealing door handles and certain other properties. The charge against Rooney was also dismissod by Justice Buckworth here, with costs against Bergron.

What Trail Creek Is Doing.

VANCOUVER, Aug. 4.—During June, 380 certificates of work were issued in Trail Creek, representing $38,000 worth of work done on claims. Two hundred and ninety-nine locations were recorded during the same period; 175 companies paid the license fee required by the new mining law, $17,250 revenue being obtained from this source.

HE TUMBLED 150 FEET

Prospector Roseberry's Fearful Fall Over a Precipice.

One of His Companions is Missing and May Have Been Killed — Were Hunting a Lost Ledge.

NORTHPORT, Wash., Aug. 2—[Special]—Early Sunday morning, while a party of three oldtime prospectors in this section were making a careful examination of the high bluff on the northeast side of Deep creek, one of them, A. Roseberry by name, slipped and fell 50 feet over a precipice and rolled down a steep rock slide some 100 feet. Wm. McKay, who was ahead, called to both Roseberry and Sholtz to be careful, as the ground was treacherous. Almost as he spoke Roseberry fell, and McKay called to Sholtz, but received no reply, and immediately hastened down to Roseberry's assistance. He was found to have a broken arm and a bad bruise on the left breast, and now lies at Stoddard's ranch in a critical condition. It is feared Sholtz also is killed or injured, as so far nothing has been heard from him.

The party were hunting for a lost galena ledge which has been reported to exist for years. Roseberry is a man of family and resides on his ranch at Onion creek. Coming so close upon the tragic death of Claus J. Gustavson, the section hand who fell over a precipice on the Red Mountain road Saturday noon and crushed his skull, this would seem to be a season of accidents.

NO CLONDYKE FOR HIM.

Frank Blackwell, of Seattle, Describes the Excitement on the Coast.

Frank Blackwell arrived in Rossland yesterday from Seattle. He is a mining man of considerable experience. and for many years has lived in the Pacific northwest. Since 1892 he has resided in Seattle and has been there constantly since the Clondyke excitement. His remarks to a MINER representative upon that subject were very much to the point.

"The sight of the ton of gold which came down from the Clondyke in July set half the people of Seattle plumb crazy," said Mr. Blackwell. "Men with families quit their jobs and gathering what money they could—sometimes hardly more than enough to pay their passage—left on the first steamer for the region where the gold was found. Storekeepers got the fever so bad that they could hardly take time from their investigations of the best route to Clondyke to wait on customers. Barber shops closed. Everybody seemed to be on a nervous strain. Nothing was heard on the streets but: 'When are you going to Clondyke?' and other conversation devoted entirely to a discussion of the supposed new Eldorado.

"Policeman resigned and departed for the diggings; one or two preachers decided that placer mining would be more profitable that preaching and skipped out; women packed their divided skirts and joined the male element in the mad rush; even the children became victims of the popular craze, and several boys under 10 years were missed in one day, afterwards being found at the wharves awaiting the opportunity to get started for the gold fields.

"The cashier of a certain firm disappeared one day and has not been seen since. A shortage was discovered and the supposition is that he took his employers' money to pay his way to the Yukon. The craze that has overtaken the people is nothing more or less than a species of insanity. The ton of gold that came down in Julv represented the clean up of the entire winter's work The very men that brought it said themselves that there were hundreds of people in and about the diggings who could neither get work nor a chance to prospect. Probably 200 out of 5,000 men struck it rich. Of the thousands that are pouring in there now, probably one per cent will make a stake. The others will not, and when they find how the land lays they will in most cases try to get work. In a few months men will be willing to work for any wages that will keep them alive. This will also have a demoralizing effect upon matters as it will cheapen labor.

"Think of the hundreds that are going in without provisions. They don't realize the conditions that prevail in the district, and when it is too late they will see their error. Those who have provisions will have to keep them for their own use and the many who are without supplies will either starve or freeze. Before this time next year we will be hearing some of the most vivid hard luck stories that were ever told and they will be told by persons who are now going to the Clondyke.

"There are some men who can go anywhere and make money. Put them on the Sahara desert and in a year they would get rich in some manner. That class of men has its representatives among those who are rushing to the Clondyke and they will come back with thousands. But there are 100 of another class to every one of the sort I've described. The other class is made up of people who might be put anywhere, with any amount of money and favorable conditions and in a year they would be dead broke. Such people will come out of the Clondyke wearing the same shirt they started in with and cursing the impulse that ever drove them to seek fortune in a placer camp.

"My experience as a miner in Montana, Nevada and California has led me to believe that the chances to make a fortune in the Clondyke are too scarce to warrant the endurance of the hardships that attend a trip to the diggings. But of course I am not as young as I used to be and maybe my judgment is too severe. A young man sees things through far different eyes than a man of fifty uses."

Ingersoll = Sergeant Drill Dep't.

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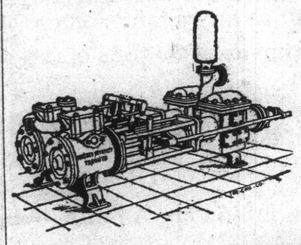

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First Trial Run at the Nelson Smelter Gives Splendid Results.

MADE 22 TONS OF MATTE

Far Exceeded Its Rated Capacity—Over 300 Tons Reduced in 24 Hours—Supt. Johnson Congratulated—Strike on the Westside Claim.

NELSON, Aug. 2.—[Special.]—The biggest blast furnace in the world, which blew in last Saturday, is a monument to the engineering ability of the constructor, Supt. Paul Johnson, and has fulfilled, if not exceeded, all expectations. It is known and classed as a 200-ton furnace, but a 24 hours' run, ending last evening, gave the following results: Ore, 215 tons; lime rock, 23 tons; refuse slags, 25 tons; black slags, 16 tons; coke, 51 tons. Total, 310 tons.

This run produced 22 tons of matte, carrying about 320 ounces of silver per ton and 48 per cent copper.

A Mechanical Success.

One feature of the new furnace is that there is a saving of over 10 per cent of the fuel as against the old furnace, which in itself is a considerable item. During its construction this giant furnace has been the subject of much speculation to all who have seen it, and Superintendent Johnson has not been inclined to talk much about it, but its successful operation has in every detail confirmed his judgment and is the subject of general congratulation. There is a sufficient quantity of ore on hand for a long run, and in addition to the 200 tons daily output from the mines a large amount of custom ore is being received.

Strike on the Westside.

Dnring the progress of assessment work on the Westside claim on Morning mountain adjoining the Evening claim, on the southwest, a 7-foot lead was opened which appears to be very rich in peacock copper and free gold. It is said to be on one of the strongest ledges on the mountain and the entire lead is well mineralized. Considerable money is to be spent in development work.

H. W. Kent, superintendent of the Vernon & Nelson Telephone company, with head offices at Vancouver, states that he has commenced the construction of a metallic circuit, long distance telephone line between Nelson and Trail and 20 men are now at work on it. It will connect Nelson and Rossland and is to be completed within two months. The schedule of rates has not yet been arranged.

If you attend the International Mining Convention in our city in July be sure and come in and make yourself known. Our stores and warehouses are open to your inspection.

A Special Inducement

In the way of a very low price will be made to the first purchaser of one of our Hoisting Plants, any size any style. to be installed near Rossland. Write for what you want. We guarantee every piece of our machinery.

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This company's properties have a wonderful surface showing.

On the Denmark, one of the company's properties, a very important strike has just been made.

The property is being worked night and day.

All promoters' stock is pooled.

A concentrator is now being erected on an adjoining property, and arrangements will be made to handle the company's ores.

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