

etc., already established on the island, and is in a position to mine this ore without the large initial cost which would have to be incurred by a new company undertaking the work.

During the month a party, including Messrs. Thos. J. Drummond, president, and Geo. E. Drummond, of Montreal; John L. Drummond, of Midland; Edgar McDougall, vice-president, Montreal; W. M. McLeod, London, England, and C. W. Brega, Chicago, director of the Londonderry Iron and Mining Co., and Geo. Beatty, general superintendent, and W. F. C. Parsons, superintendent of mines for the company at Londonderry, visited the Torbrook-Nictaux iron district, to inspect the mines purchased from the Torbrook Iron Company, and the properties held by Mr. Geo. E. Corbitt on the farms of F. Wheelock, M. Hoffman and Arch. Banks, which the I. L. & M. Co. has been developing. It is understood, that as a result of their visit more extensive operations will be carried on.

A Halifax despatch says the Nova Scotia Steel Company has sold the abandoned works at Ferrona, and the mine there for \$200,000, making a better sale than had been expected.

#### ONTARIO.

During the month the Craig mine produced a gold brick valued at \$2,200, as a result of eleven days' crushing.

The mica property in Burgess is about to be extensively worked by the lessees. The mine was abandoned some four years ago.

In the Manitou section the Big Master mill is now being operated with double shift, while at Dryden the Redeemer Mining Company, an American corporation, is installing a cyanide plant in conjunction with the mill.

Prof. Miller, provincial geologist, reports an important discovery of Bessemer iron ore at Loon Lake, east of Port Arthur. It is said the deposits are much more extensive than first supposed, and that the quality is of a high grade.

The Lake Orion Oil & Gas Co. is reported to have struck a big gusher, which is flowing at the rate of over 600 barrels per day, on their property, at a depth of 1,078 feet, and the company has now drilled ten wells, all of which, with one exception, have been largely productive.

Three enormous ingots of silver have been recently discovered on the Timmins property, Cobalt. The first of these was discovered last year, and realized over \$1,000, while two others have been found during the past month, weighing respectively 160 and 260 lbs. The latter will probably be placed in the museum of the Geological Survey of Ottawa.

The Lake Erie Gas & Oil Company have leased 30,000 acres of land in the first and second concessions of Yarmouth, Malahide and Bayham, between Port Stanley and Port Burwell, in Elgin County, have contracted with local Leamington men for the sinking of three wells until Medina sand shall have been struck, the limit being 3,000 feet.

A correspondent writes from Cobalt:—"There have been no new strikes of any importance recently, so far as I have yet learnt, except the Glendenning discovery on J. B. 8 north of Giroux Lake, where I understand they have done one of the largest outcrops of silver-bearing calcite so far discovered in the camp. It is claimed to be very rich in silver, carrying very little cobalt, nickel or arsenic. In this respect it is very similar to the vein on the Lawson property, which it adjoins."

#### ALBERTA.

Arrangements are being made for the erection of large cement works at Calgary. This undertaking has been initiated by the principal shareholders in the Vancouver-Portland Cement Works, which has established works at Tod Inlet in Vancouver Island.

What is described as the biggest strike of oil ever made in Canada is reported to have occurred on the property of the Rocky Mountain Development Company, where a gusher was struck at a depth of 1,400 feet, the flow from which has yielded 8,000 barrels daily. The oil

lands are situated about thirty-five miles southwest of Pincher Creek and about five miles from the International boundary.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

**Atlin.**—According to a report in the Atlin Claim the most valuable clean-up ever made on a claim owned by an individual in this district was made recently on the Ruffner property at Pine Creek, when gold to the value of \$60,000.00 was recovered, this being the third clean-up on the claim this season.

The gold commissioner has cancelled a number of leases in the O'Donnell Valley, and a large area will consequently be thrown open for re-location by prospectors and others.

**Coast.**—The San Juan Mining and Mfg. Co. has been organized in Victoria to operate a group of claims in the San Juan district and the West coast of the Island. These properties include, according to prospectus issued.

It is stated that shipments of five per cent. copper ore are being made at the rate of four tons daily from the Britannia mine to the wharf, for shipment to the Crofton smelter, ore of a lesser grade than this being sent to the concentrators. It is, meanwhile, reported that arrangements are in progress to drive a tunnel a distance of 1,900 feet into the mountain between the Britannia Copper Syndicate's workings and the Empress group of claims, which were recently acquired by Mr. S. S. Raymond, of the North Penny Mining Company of Wyoming, by which, it is expected, the Britannia lead on the Edith fraction, and the Fairview claims, while also the ore body on the Barbara fraction and Empress claims, will be opened up.

The Cuba Silver Mining Co., on Loughboro Inlet, contemplate commencing shipments to the Crofton smelter this month. The property, however, is still in the prospect stage of development, though promising well.

Operations have been commenced by the bondholders on the Copper Queen property, Texada Island, while the Cornell has been leased to the Cordellero Mines Co., of Seattle, and the property is being unwatered.

Mr. F. W. McCrady, the engineer in charge of the Cuba properties on Loughborough Inlet, in a recent interview stated that in his opinion the output from the Coast mines this year would show an increase of 100 per cent. He further stated that: "Five years ago the cost of smelting coast ores was \$8 per ton, and the price paid miners for copper was 6 cents per pound less than the New York quotation of the day of sampling. Now we get our copper ores smelted for \$2.50 a ton, and the price paid to mines by smelters is 3 cents per pound less than the New York quotation of the day of sampling. Formerly the price paid was on casting copper, while now it is based on electrolytic copper, which is from a half to a cent a pound higher than casting copper. This advantage to the mines can be put in a few words by saying that a five per cent. ore five years ago would not net the mine enough to pay smelting and freight charges, whereas to-day a five per cent. mine would have \$10 left over and above freight and treatment. In the districts of British Columbia last year the Coast stood third in the amount of copper produced, while the average assay was highest."

**Cariboo.**—The Transvaal group of copper claims, situated 18 miles southeast of Ashcroft, were recently bonded to Mr. Jno. M. Turnbull, of the Trail smelter, representing Canadian capital. The property was bonded last year to Messrs. J. D. Sword and Smith Curtis. The price is said to be in this case \$100,000.00, and the properties are believed to be most promising.

The Lightning Creek Gold, Gravel and Drainage Company has struck the old channel of Lightning Creek on its Wing Dam property at a depth of 165 feet. Prospects were obtained from bed-rock, and were found to contain good values.

Indications of petroleum, discovered by Mr. R. T. Ward, in the Beaver Valley in this district last year, have been recently investigated by a Mr. Jas. Hardie, described as an oil expert, who states that the prospects are exceptionally promising.