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THE MONTH.

It is somewhat an event in the Lardeau, that the Silver Cup combination mill, near Ferguson, has commenced crushing operations, the first bar of bullion having been produced therefrom last month. Before the completion of construction work on this mill we were informed by more than one correspondent of the alleged inadequacy of the precautions taken to demonstrate by preliminary experiment, the suitability of the process to the treatment of the Silver Cup and Nettie L. ores. From what we have since been able to gather there does not appear to have been sufficient foundation for these statements, and the fact that the mill is now seemingly in successful operation substantiates the conclusions at which we had arrived.

Last month Atlin witnessed the inauguration of an important enterprise when dredging operations were started by the British America Dredging Company, on Gold Run. According to reports from the district the dredge is working most satisfactorily, handling even, contrary to pre-conceived opinion, boulders with great ease. It is early yet, of course, to speak with any degree of assurance of the possibilities of a successful future for dredging in the Atlin district; but if in actual practice the results approach those obtained from last season's prospecting, then the outlook for the industry is most promising.

Mr. J. H. Christie, a peripatetic prospector not unknown at Rossland, recently furnished a Vancouver news-gatherer with some optimistic information relative to the alleged coal and oil resources of the Wulffshon Bay district. The particulars published made interesting reading—"an immense carboniferous deposit, almost at the doors of Vancouver City"; "followed the formation fifteen miles"; "simply a continuation of the carboniferous beds of Vancouver Island"; "we have staked 12 square miles," etc., etc. Now for the "thorough exploration" promised, and then some big collieries at Vancouver's doors—perhaps.

The example set by the general manager and mine superintendent of the Tyece Copper Company in offering donations as the nucleus of a sum of \$400 for prizes for a miners' rock-drilling contest to take place during Fair week in Victoria at the end of September next, is one that should be followed by others interested in mining on Vancouver Island. If the executive committee succeed in getting together a good display of minerals, and the proposed rock-drilling contest be definitely arranged, they will have some little claim upon the mining districts within easy reach of Victoria to give the Fair the benefit of their recommendation and personal support.

In an interview published in a Rossland paper, Mr. Alexander Sharp, acting as consulting engineer for Messrs. P. Burns & Co., is reported to have said after visiting the Poplar Creek district, that no "free-gold camp" of equal importance and promise had in his opinion been discovered in British Columbia. The showings on the more developed properties were, he said, exceptionally fine, the leads in some instances being as much as fifty feet wide. The only and of course most vital matter yet to determine was whether or not values would continue at depth, but Mr. Sharp considers that geological conditions are not unfavourable to this supposition. There are at present in the district some six hundred prospectors either doing assessment work on their claims or prospecting in the hills.

The announcement a short time ago of the declaration by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company of its