

and are known to contain over twenty million tons of good grade ore.

Over 2,000 miners are now employed by the seventeen active mines of the Iron River district. The large stock-piles accumulated during the dull season of 1914 and last winter are being loaded by steam shovel for shipment to Escanoba ore docks on Lake Michigan. Among the new mines to enter the list of shippers are the Bengal of Pickands, Mather & Co. of Cleveland, and the Homer of the Wickwire Steel Co. of Buffalo. The Homer mine was formerly the Donahue Exploration of the Munro Iron Mining Co., also of Buffalo, but was sold by this Rogers-Brown subsidiary to the Wickwire Co. several years ago.

Resumption of construction work on the new steel plant of the U. S. Steel Corporation at Duluth presages the making of steel at the head of the lakes. It is estimated that the plant will be completed early in the winter. Charcoal iron furnaces in the upper peninsula of Michigan, of which there are several, are resuming activity, and in particular are devoting attention to chemical experiments for most profitably utilizing the products of the distillation process of making the charcoal. Since German chemicals have been largely de-cut off from the U. S. A., this chemical by-product department of the charcoal-iron furnaces, which was just getting into the more complicated branches of chemical manufacture, has become increasingly attractive.

There is no truth in the newspaper story of the intended merger of several of the independent iron and steel companies into a second Steel Corporation under the leadership of Charles M. Schwab and H. C. Frick. The false report had it that the following companies would consolidate: Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Colorado Fuel & Iron Co., Jones & Laughlin, Crucible Steel Co., Lackawanna Steel Co., Cambria Steel Co., etc.

"Iron Ore," published by Geo. Newett of Ishpeming, good naturedly styles Charles M. Schwab "the American Krupp," on account of his recognized ability, distinguishing him from the run of American steel men, at manufacturing munitions of war. The Bethlehem Steel Corporation, which Schwab controls and actively manages, with headquarters at South Bethlehem in eastern Pennsylvania, conveniently near the port of Philadelphia, is now estimated to be producing enormous quantities of shells.

## OBITUARY

Another of the "old-timers" of British Columbia died a few weeks ago in the City of Vancouver, named Frederic Soues, for more than 30 years in the Provincial Government service, and not long out of official harness, since it was only two or three years ago that he was superannuated. Details of his varied career have not been obtained, but it is known that before going to British Columbia more than 50 years ago he was in Australia and New Zealand.

The Daily Colonist, Victoria, B.C., recently published the following: "Mr. Frederick Soues, one of British Columbia's most respected and esteemed pioneers, passed away last week in Vancouver. A native of Scotland, he came to British Columbia in 1862, and for 30 years held the position of Provincial Government Agent at Clinton. In the early days the duties of that office were many and varied, extending over a very wide district, but no matter what the personal inconvenience, all would receive prompt and courteous attention. The late Mr. Soues was a life-long, faithful friend, a man whose word was as good as his bond,

and no one ever appealed to him for help in vain. His name stood for what is best in character, and those who had the privilege of his friendship feel that in his removal one of Nature's noblemen has gone to that bourne whence no traveller returns."

Mr. Soues was always enthusiastic concerning the mineral riches of Lillooet district, and for years he advocated gold dredging on the Fraser river which flows through it, but he did not live to see such operations undertaken on an extensive scale with modern gold dredging appliances. He was well known to the late Dr. Geo. M. Dawson, of the Geological Survey of Canada. Incidentally it may be mentioned that Mr. Robert A. A. Johnston, mineralogist and curator to the Geological Survey, made the following note on the mineral Souesite:

"Lillooet Mining Division, B.C.—The name Souesite was given by Hoffman (G.S.C., Sec. Chem. Min., 1906, pp. 9-11) to a nickel-iron alloy found associated with platinum, irodoamine, gold, magnetite, quartz and garnet in the river gravels about two miles below Lillooet on the Fraser river. A specimen of the mineral so named by Dr. Hoffman was first sent by Mr. Soues for determination."

As indicating the confidence the late Mr. Soues had in the mineral wealth of Lillooet district, the following excerpt from a report of his, printed in the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines of British Columbia, 1896, which was the first official report of the department published after the creation of the British Columbia Bureau of Mines, and the appointment of Mr. William G. A. Carlyle as Provincial Mineralogist. Mr. Soues, in the capacity of Gold Commissioner, wrote of Lillooet under the subhead of Bridge River, as follows:

"Bridge River—I have for years past, notably in 1886 and 1889, endeavored to draw attention to this (in my opinion) the richest, and at the same time most neglected, portion of the district, and may at this time and place be permitted to refer to it at length. . .

"From a personal residence of 34 years in the district, at Pemberton, Lillooet and Clinton, and during the whole of that time with exceptional opportunities of learning the amount of gold obtained and its sources, I may be supposed qualified to deal with the matter intelligently and correctly. With the decade ending 1869 official public reports, with regard to mines and mining in this district, are conspicuous only by their absence. The early miners coming to this province, 1859-60, worked their way up the Fraser river, testing all the tributaries for gold. Bridge river in those years was located and worked, and from that time on to the present, by white, Indian and Chinese miners, year by year, with varying success. The richest finds and largest nuggets of gold were obtained in the decade referred to. With the decade ending 1879, we have official mining statistics, commencing in 1874, in some of which annual reports place has been found for Lillooet district and the estimated returns. In others the district has been entirely ignored.

The foregoing is but typical of the consistent contention of the late Mr. Soues of the considerable promise for mining in Lillooet district. Only now is railway transportation being provided; doubtless many wagon road feeders will be established within a few years, and as these give better means of access to the scattered gold-bearing localities of Lillooet there will most likely be gradually realized the expectations of the late Gold Commissioner and others who have also predicted good returns from mining in this part of British Columbia.