

### Current Mining News.

Contributions from any part of British Columbia and the mining districts of a reliable nature will be published in these columns, and we request that mining men write us about the progress of the mines of their district. We desire to publish all mining news.

#### A SAD ACCIDENT.

The many friends of the late Mr. Basis D. Rorison, who was widely known and very highly respected throughout the Coast district, will regret greatly to hear of his losing his life by accident. Mr. Rorison, it seems, went back too soon in order to look at a shot which he thought to have missed fire. The shot, however, went off just as he got in front of it. Death was almost instantaneous.

#### A RICH STRIKE.

A report which the MINING CRITIC gives with some reserve—though it comes from a very rich and goodly dividend-earning district of the Slovan—states that on the Charleston mine, at a depth of 300 feet, there have been struck 42 inches of ore carrying 700 ounces of silver to the ton, plus 43 per cent. of lead, making the richest ore yet found in British Columbia's greatest precious-metal wealth-producer to date, the famous Slovan silver country.

#### ANOTHER LE ROI DIVIDEND.

The Le Roi has paid this week another satisfactory dividend of \$50,000, making an aggregate of \$725,000 in dividends to date, towards which goodly quota \$425,000 were yielded in 1897 as net profits. During last year, moreover, it is stated that out of profits \$112,000 were expended on the Northport smelter—which cost nearly \$100,000—and in permanent improvements at the mine. It is now thought extremely likely that the British America Corporation will very shortly exercise its option and buy the Le Roi.

#### A BRIDGE RIVER PURCHASE.

The Forty Thieves group of the Bridge River gold district of Lillooet has been bought by the British Columbia Agency, Limited. The group includes the full claims known as the Berta Ural, Forty Thieves, and four fractional claims adjacent. The consideration given is understood to be large for undeveloped properties, on which, however, the British Columbia Agency's local management will very shortly begin active work. Old-time gold miners, who should know something of the place, rate very highly indeed the free-milling gold possibilities of the Bridge River district of Lillooet, which in old days yielded very rich returns indeed, from placer working very primitively conducted..

### THE SILVER CUP.

This North Kootenay mine of the Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Gold Fields Company, Limited, is now stated to be showing well. It has 108 tons of ore en route to the Everett smelter, and 300 more on the dump waiting transport to Thompson's Landing. Superintendent McNeill states that the mine is getting out 150 tons of ore per month, worth \$58 a ton, and that his men are sinking gradually deeper—having now reached a depth of 200 feet—with satisfactory indications. Assuming the general correctness of the superintendent's statement, it looks as if the Silver Cup may do something fairly substantial to improve the position of this well capitalized mining company, the British shareholders of which ought to receive a good return for their early efforts directed toward British Columbia mining development, as yet wholly unrequited.

#### TRAIL CREEK AND THE SLOCAN.

Whilst Trail Creek has about 700 miners at work for wages averaging \$3 a day, the Slovan silver district, within 15 miles of Kaslo, engages some 1,200 at an average rate of \$3.50. The high-grade silver country of British Columbia shows little evidence of depression notwithstanding all the depreciation of the white metal, and continues to yield many times the dividend returns to date of the Trail Creek district, rich as the latter undoubtedly is in copper-gold, and deservedly world famous by reason of the great success of the Le Roi. There should, however, be a vast increase of Trail Creek dividend earning in the early future, following immediately upon big reductions of freight and treatment charges.

#### A DOUBTFUL REPORT.

Advices from Dawson City, through persons who left there on December 12th, state that nothing was then known of the alleged discovery of the mother lode of the Yukon gold. The report is consequently discredited, and certainly needs much stronger corroboration than the statement of a Seattle Post-Intelligencer correspondent, who vies with the notorious Joaquin Miller in making Munchausen-like efforts to magnify the wonders of the Yukon. Meanwhile large numbers of men are leaving Dawson with goodly sums under their control, quite as many of these, however, being acquired by the sale of claims as by actual gold getting.

#### ROSSLAND'S MINING OUTPUT.

This continues to be fairly steady, and in the neighborhood of 1,500 tons weekly, the last week's output being 1,450 tons, to which the Le Roi, as usual, contributed a big maximum.