

Train Claim at Rossland—a property to which little or no importance is attached locally. No doubt the object of this policy is to consolidate the position of the Le Roi by securing other properties containing ore which can advantageously be treated with its own product, but such a selection should be made with the utmost care, and with the sole consideration of Le Roi interests. This raises finally the most important and serious aspect of the question as affecting all parties, viz., that of smelting.

This, after all, is the crux of the question, because it has the most vital influence on the question of profit or loss, and there is no question that the treatment of the Le Roi ores can be more profitably dealt with on the Canadian side, irrespective of any scheme for amalgamation, and irrespective of the acquisition or non-acquisition of other properties to be worked in conjunction with Le Roi. If the present action of the Le Roi directorate is to be regarded as final, we must assume that they are as much in love with their own smelter at Northport as ever, and will continue to operate it for the reduction of Le Roi and any other ores they may produce. This policy was clearly foreshadowed by the chairman of the company at the last annual meeting, when he expatiated at considerable length on the excellence of their smelter and its value as an asset.

It has always been a grievance in British Columbia that Rossland ores should go to Northport for treatment. There can be no question that Northport smelter would never have been built but that, at that time, the Le Roi belonged to Senator Turner, of Spokane, and his associates. It has long since been demonstrated to the satisfaction of everyone, except the Le Roi directorate, that, instead of being "a valuable asset," it is a "white elephant." However great Canadian solicitude for Canadian interests may be, the abandonment of the Northport smelter on patriotic grounds alone could not be advocated, nor could it if the change would involve pecuniary loss, but when such a course would vastly benefit the shareholders of the Le Roi Company, it becomes difficult to understand why a policy should be inaugurated perpetuating a constant loss.

To show that Rossland ores can be, and have been, treated more advantageously at Canadian than American smelters, it is only necessary to point out that the adjoining mine to the Le Roi (Centre Star) during its last financial year, made a net profit of \$228,359.00, as per balance sheet published. This was on the sale of 88,387 tons of ore, averaging \$10.58 a ton gross assay value. This ore was treated at the Trail smelter, and received an advantageous freight and treatment rate, which enabled the mine, using the Canadian smelter, to obtain actual cash results that compare more than favorably with its bigger neighbor. The Le Roi shipped to its own smelter at Northport 172,669 tons of first class ore of an average gross assay value of \$13.36 per ton, and 7,196 tons of second class ore averaging \$11.18 per ton, upon the whole of which the estimated profit of \$378,421.00 was made, though later developments tend to cast doubt on the accuracy of the estimate. A comparison of these results shows a surplus in favor of the

ore treated at the Canadian smelter of \$3.00 a ton. Of course this is not all accounted for by cheaper treatment, but, after making every allowance for other items, it is evident that a substantial balance is attributable to that source.

We respectfully submit that the foregoing statements are well worthy the consideration of the directorate and shareholders of the Le Roi Company. The Province of British Columbia has been the graveyard of not a few reputations, both financial and professional. It has been blamed for all the misdeeds of all the unscrupulous promoters and incompetent managers who have exploited its mineral wealth, but if confiding shareholders choose to plunge ahead regardless of the advice and warnings of the mining press and of the men who have the true interests of the province at heart, they must take the consequences, and need not look for sympathy.

### The Alaska Gold Belt

The U. S. Geological Survey will shortly publish a bulletin on the Juneau (Alaska) gold belt by Messrs. A. S. Spencer and C. W. Wright. These gentlemen were detailed to make an extensive examination of the schistose country in south-eastern Alaska last summer, and have now completed their field work.

The Juneau gold belt, which includes the famous Treadwell mine on Douglass Island, is found to present many similarities to the rocks of the Mother Lode districts in central California. The component members of the rock series are very similar in character, and, perhaps, are of similar age, being composed of a more or less conformable series of slates and schists, with occasional bands of eruptive igneous rocks. The veins of the Juneau district, like those of the Mother Lode, are usually conformable in strike and dip with the enclosing rocks, but in the Juneau belt there are a larger number of quartzose veins crossing the dip and strike of the country. There are also, as in California, many independent deposits not correlated to the main complex of veins, but lying outside thereof.

Another point of resemblance is that, out of the very large number of veins met with, but a very small percentage carry free gold in commercial quantities, and the continuity of any one single vein is not usually extensive in a lateral direction.

There are now seven productive mines in this belt, three on Douglass Island, and four on the main land, whose united production for 1904 is estimated closely at \$2,500,000.

Since the inception of mining (in 1880) the production of the Juneau belt has exceeded the sum of \$20,000,000.

The REVIEW begs to suggest to the Department of the Interior the advisability of having a competent man from the Geological Survey, or from the Superintendent of Mines office, sent to familiarize himself with the geological conditions of the Juneau district, and then to commission him to make an investigation and comparison with the slates and metamorphic schists of the Yukon Territory.