

work, and a charcoal furnace of 150 tons daily capacity will be blast this month. This joint daily output of 400 tons of pig will enable the corporation to discontinue the importation of iron from the United States, which has been necessary in order to keep the rail mill at work. The rails which have been supplied to purchasers thus far have been made from American pig iron.

The new Minister of Crown Lands for Ontario, the Hon. Mr. Mackay, promises changes in the administration of his department in the interests of the practical miner; at the recent party convention in Toronto the Minister moved the following resolution: "That the most liberal terms should be offered to prospectors for minerals, providing that the minerals are developed within a reasonable time and not held merely for speculative purposes." Whether this resolution is a piece of political bounce or whether it is to become a part of the policy of the new administration only time can tell us, but, in speaking of it Mr. Mackay said that it was the intention of his Department to establish local offices with local agents in different mining centres, at which offices records could be obtained as to ground taken up and decisions given, and that the object of this local office would be to correct the trouble, delay and expense incident to coming, or writing, to the head office in Toronto. We wish the Minister luck with his new project.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Two cars of ore, recently shipped from the Skylark mine, yielded \$107 per ton.

The total production from the mines of the Boundary district is reported to be about 810,000 tons for the year.

In the month of November the product of the Canadian Smelting Works at Trail was 947,168 pounds of lead.

The Venus mill, serving the Athabasca-Venus mines, has been compelled to close owing to lack of water.

The Foghorn in Ymir District, reports a strike of good ore on No. 2 ledge at a depth of 600 feet.

The deposit of iron ore near Crawford Bay, owned by Messrs. McMillan and Robinson, is to be incorporated into a joint stock company.

A. J. McMillan went to England to spend the Christmas holidays with his family in Warwickshire.

The gold production of the Atlin District for 1904 amounted to \$600,000 against \$420,000 for 1903.

The Silver-lead mines of British Columbia have paid dividends amounting to \$3,500,000 since 1892.

The Marysville smelter is to use the Huntington-Heberlein process for treatment of its ores. This process was described in our issue for December.

Mr. G. S. C. Lindsay, general manager of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co., has returned to Fernie after spending the Christmas season in Toronto.

The Boundary country now has ten furnaces in blast—six of the Granby furnaces, two of the B. C. copper and two of the Montreal and Boston.

The Rawhide mine belonging to the Consolidated Montreal and Boston Company began regular shipments of ore to the smelter at Boundary Falls on Dec. 21.

The Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia expects to hold its annual meeting in the latter part of January or the first week of February.

Coal from the mine on Coal Hill operated by the Kamloops Coal and Development Company, is now being used as fuel at the Iron Mask. At present two teams are engaged hauling the coal.

The Slocan Star, owned by the Byron N. White Company, has paid total dividends amounting to \$517,600; the dividend for 1904 was \$50,000, or ten per cent. on the capital stock.

The mines in the Slocan division have not yet enough snow to permit of rawhiding or sleighing the ore to rail connection, and in consequence a number of men were laid off last month.

The Kootenay Belle Group, near Salmo, has been bonded by Patsey Clark, of Spokane, for \$100,000 for the period of one year. Mr. Clark intends to push development during the period of his option.

The Tyee Smelter, at Ladysmith, received in December 200 tons of ore by steamer Asnur from the far north, 150 tons came from Alaska and 50 tons from the copper mines at White Horse, Yukon Territory.

From good authority we learn that there are some 13,000 tons of zinc concentrates awaiting purchase in the Slocan country. Of this amount there are about 8,000 tons at Sandon, and 5,000 tons at Kaslo.

The city of Victoria in experimenting with a mixture of granulated slag and clay for a road surface. It is believed that this material, when properly rolled, will make a surface comparable to macadam.

The Northport Smelter will hereafter be able to purchase its coke for \$2.00 a ton instead of \$2.50, in consequence of the Great Northern Railway's completion to Fernie.

The Alice mine, at Creston, has been compelled to close down owing to lack of water. The flume which supplies the water is frozen solid, and no other water is available.

The C. P. R. claim on Welsher Mountain, in Franklin Camp, near Grand Forks, has had some remarkably good results from the ore recently uncovered. The values run: copper, \$8.64; silver, \$11 and gold, \$8.25 per ton.

Reports from the Lillooet gold dredge show that it continues to do satisfactory work; the dredge is running continuously and making returns of between \$300 and \$400 for each full day's work. The financial difficulty with the late secretary is being adjusted.

The work at the Princess Royal mine, on Princess Royal Island, will be continued during the winter. Some twenty to thirty men are employed, and the climate will permit of traffic over the lakes during the winter with the exception of about two months.

The owners of the Crofton smelter are still working upon the possibility of making arrangements to handle the output of ore from the Britannia mines; upon the solution of this matter depends the question of re-opening the plant at an early date.

Late advices from the Boundary Creek state that, Mr. S. F. Parrish and Mr. R. H. Anderson are negotiating for the lease or purchase of the B. C. mine in Summit Camp. Mr. Parrish was formerly the manager of the B. C. mine and probably knows its value and possibilities better than most men.

The Iron Mask is steadily producing ore, and every day about two car loads of ore and concentrates are shipped to the smelter. Part of the ore which needs no concentrating is shipped as mined. The big traction engine and a four-horse team are kept busily employed every day hauling stuff to the siding to load on the cars.

Another rich outcrop of quartz has been found in the Granite-Poorman section between Eagle and 49 creeks, below Nelson. This time it occurred in the claim known as the "Green Horn." Fine specimens with visible free gold are characteristic of this gold section, but the trouble has been that such specimens disappeared with depth.

The Imperial Coal and Coke Co., which owns an extensive area of coal lands at Fording River, B.C., has found that certain of its seams carry a good grade of gas coal. Tests show a production of about ten thousand cubic feet per ton, which should qualify this coal for gas production when the western country needs gas.

The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. paid out in December a total of \$126,842 for pay rolls on their three collieries at Coal Creek, Michel and Carbonado. This represents the wages for something over 1,800 men. The present output of the Coal Company is about one million tons a year.

The Lucky Jim mine, near Bear Lake, sold, during December, 2,000 tons of zinc ore to Batchelor Bros., of Spokane. Of this tonnage 1,200 tons will be delivered as crude ore, and 800 tons will be in the form of concentrates. The lump ore averages 54 per cent. of zinc, and the concentrates 48 per cent.

Owing to lack of ores the Hall Mines, Ltd., have only been running one furnace for quite a period. In view of accumulations during the past month, and having promises of a larger supply from East Kootenay mines, the management planned to blow in a second furnace about the first of the year.

The values reported for the ore chute which has been cut on the 1,450 level on the Le Roi mine are put at \$20 per ton in gold, and in consequence the management is encouraged to believe that the Le Roi may duplicate in depth the rich values it yielded near the surface.

The Five Metals Mining Co., located at Crawford Bay, are pushing work upon the cross cut tunnel, and expect to have a sufficient amount of ore developed to supply a 50-ton lead furnace by the first of next June. The company proposes to erect such a furnace if development is satisfactory.

The Van Anda mine, at Texada Island, suspended work in December, and did not give any information to the public as to its intention to resume operations. This mine has been operated for some time by an English concern, and its shut down is ascribed to an inspection which was made by a representative of that company.

The discovery of fire clay on Sumas Mountain, noted in these columns a month or two ago, has been tested by mixing and burning tests which were conducted by the firm of assayers, Messrs. Pellew-Harvey, Bryant and Gilman. We are informed that the tests which were made showed the satisfactory character of the clay.