

## MAY RESUME PLACER MINING AT HALL CREEK, NELSON DISTRICT.

**H**ALL CREEK PLACERS may again be worked, according to the *Nelson Daily News*, which last month published the following information relative to them and the proposed resumption of work on them:

"It is likely the coming summer will witness the resumption of placer mining on a large scale at Hall Creek, 10 miles south of Nelson. This creek was the scene of the earliest mining excitement in the vicinity of Nelson, and before the Hall mines were staked, or the Nelson and Fort Sheppard railway built, it was the Mecca of a host of eager prospectors.

"The first location was made in February, 1892, and during that summer and the succeeding summers every available foot of ground on the creek was staked. After the white men had worked out the richer deposits alongside the water, the ground was restaked by Chinamen, who with great assiduity brought the gravel in wheelbarrows from the benches more remote from the water. More or less primitive methods were employed in all cases, and no machinery of any kind was used. These methods, however, sufficed to work the gravels near the creek, and for the first year or so big money was made by all the locators. The rows of substantial cabins, still standing, indicate how the ground was covered by the locators. Successive years of operation, however, when each year meant a longer transportation of the gravel to the water, brought a gradual increase in the cost, until finally operations were entirely discontinued.

"It has long been recognized, however, that the flat ground through which Hall Creek has made a series of channels, offers a promising field for exploitation by means of modern hydraulic machinery. The ground was all staked as hydraulic leases some years ago and has since been thoroughly sampled and tested with the result that a conservative report by a well-known engineer gave an average value of 25 cents in gold per cu. yd. The auriferous gravels average from 25 to 50 ft. in depth, and as the total area under lease is in the neighbourhood of 720 acres, a calculation will give some idea of the size of the proposition. In addition to the gold values recovered by sluicing and amalgamation, the gravels are rich in black sand. The assay value of this black sand, ascertained by a long series of assays, run from \$37 to \$200 per ton, a value which is recoverable by smelting only. As black sand is a very desirable smelter flux, the cost of smelting is very small, if any, while the fact that a railway traverses the ground renders the cost of transportation inconsiderable. The black sand is estimated at about 10 lb. to the cu. yd.

All the leases have been consolidated and assigned to the American and British Columbia Hydraulic Placer Company, which has made arrangements for the installation of a modern hydraulic plant capable

of washing 5,000 yd. per diem. On one of the leases a small hydraulic plant has already been partially installed, and this will be completed first and worked in conjunction with a set of Willey concentrating tables. Operations will be commenced as soon as the snow has sufficiently disappeared."

## SILVER CUP FOR MINERAL EXHIBIT.

**N**ELSON DISTRICT, West Kootenay, was awarded the \$100 silver cup for the best display of minerals at the Interstate Fair held at Spokane last October. A fairly large collection of ores from Kootenay and Boundary Districts had been got together for exhibition at the Nelson Fair held late in September, and from these a representative selection was made and sent to Spokane, where it secured the award for the best mineral display, competing successfully against the exhibits of the States of Washington and Idaho. On March 3, instant, Mr. T. G. Procter, of Nelson, forwarded the cup to the Bureau of Mines, Victoria, and addressed to Mr. R. F. Tolmie, deputy minister of mines for British Columbia, a letter of which the following is a copy:

"I am expressing you to-day the silver cup which was won by the Nelson District, at the Interstate Fair at Spokane, Washington, U.S. A., last year, against all competitors. You can, no doubt, find a place for it in the Mineral Department or elsewhere, where it may be of benefit to the Province as a whole and to our section in particular.

"As chairman of the Mineral Collection Committee, I sent to Spokane about 1,500 lb. of specimens, which are now on permanent exhibit in the Chamber of Commerce in Spokane, and that is the exhibit which won this cup."

The cup is a large and handsome trophy and one that the Nelson District may well be proud to have won, especially in a competition in which several important mining districts took part. The decision to place the cup where it will be likely to attract the attention of a much larger number of men interested in mining than might be expected had it been kept at Nelson, is to be commended, and it is to be hoped that the district will benefit considerably as a result.

The *Vancouver News-Advertiser* says: Mr. W. A. Black, of Vancouver, has received a letter from Dawson, dated March 8, in which reference is made to a rich placer gold find on Black Hills Creek. Good pay is now assured from 23 above to 7 below, also on some of the tributaries. The discoverers, Messrs. Hall and Marsh, lately put down a shaft, striking a new pay-streak showing 6 ft. of gravel that goes seven cents to the pan throughout, which means a fortune in sight. On 23 below, good pay has been struck, and the success of mining on the creek is beyond all doubt. The creek is a tributary of Stewart River, and is more than 30 miles in length.