

We have previously commented on the discovery of platinum in place in the Similkameen. It is now reported that similar discoveries have been made in the Burnt Basin. This, if true, and there is every reason to believe in the authenticity of the report, would not only be important, regarded commercially, but from a metallurgical standpoint the finding of platinum in place possesses decided interest. It is understood meanwhile that the ore has been tested with very satisfactory results by Messrs. Baker & Co., the well-known firm of platinum refiners of Newark, N. J. The Burnt Basin is situated in the Grand Forks Mining Division, and apart from the present discovery, many exceedingly promising outcrops of copper ores are to be found there. Few, if any, of the claims, however, in this section have as yet been systematically developed.

The Maple Leaf Mining & Development Company, incorporated in this Province with a capital of \$1,000,000 and having its head office in San Francisco, is issuing circulars offering its stock for sale. This is to all appearance a wild-cat of the most flagrant type and we shall have more to say about it later.

A movement has been started in Phoenix having for its object the establishment by the Government of a home for permanently disabled and indigent miners. Nothing can be more timely and it may be taken for granted that the miners themselves will cheerfully bear a share of the cost of such an institution.

THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE OLLALA COMPANY.

MR. W. M. Brewer, special correspondent of the *Engineering and Mining Journal* (New York) has handed us the following letter addressed to the editor of that periodical replying to a communication published in the same paper from Mr. A. A. Watson, of Vernon, who examined and reported on the company's properties and now questions the fairness of a previous criticism made by Mr. Brewer:

Victoria, B.C., August 19th, 1902.

Dear Sir:—When, because of the representations made to me by prominent citizens of British Columbia, many of them leading mining men, I, last winter, not because of any personal reasons but acting in the capacity as the representative in British Columbia of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, sounded a note of warning to the public advising them to thoroughly investigate the merits of the proposition of the Olalla Copper Mining and Smelting Company, previous to investing, I fully intended not to be drawn into any controversy relative to the question, principally be-

cause I considered that from the statements made by the company themselves and the reports they published they would hesitate a long while before replying to my criticism. But, from the fact that Mr. Watson, of Vernon, who reported on the properties, and Mr. W. C. McDougal, the general manager of the company have, after waiting several months, challenged my criticisms through the correspondence columns of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, I am constrained to reply to these gentlemen and shall make that reply as brief as possible and also directly to the point.

The great objection Mr. Watson found to my criticism was, that it was unfair because I had not personally visited the property. I stated in my letter that I had the best authority for making the criticism, although I had not examined the properties myself. A portion of that authority was Mr. Watson's own report published by the company, in pamphlet form, in which he states that at the time of his examination the surface was so covered with snow that slovening had to be resorted to, to uncover outcroppings of mineral and that all the development work performed on sixty-three claims, only amounted to some one thousand feet, of which about six hundred was a crosscut tunnel run in barren material. Now for a man to assert that under such conditions he felt justified in stating that the property possessed sufficient value to warrant the flotation of a company capitalized at \$3,000,000, even though a railroad charter authorizing the construction of a line through a very sparsely settled country, a townsit in that sparsely settled country, water rights and a smelting site are included in the proposition is the most arrant nonsense, and no reputable mining engineer would make such a statement, but as Mr. Watson claims to be only an assayer I presume the public will deal leniently with his statements, notwithstanding that the company appear to place such great importance on his reports that they are willing to attempt to secure capital from the public.

Another authority was the report of the Provincial Mineralogist, who made a personal examination in 1901, which has since been published and from which I quote the following, from pages 1156-7-8 and 9 of the latest report of the Minister of Mines, submitted at the last session of the local legislature in 1902:

The Bullion mineral claim is one of the claims in the neighbourhood of Olalla held by the Keremeos Mining Syndicate, the manager of which is Mr. Morris. The property is situated to the east of and directly above the Olalla townsit, at an altitude of 3,200 feet, or about 2,000 feet above the level of the valley. The country rock here is a fine-grained igneous variety, which seems to be considerably altered along a joint plane, and in the immediate neighbourhood of the ore body, is granular, having the appearance of a garnetite, in places showing well-defined crystals of garnet. The mineralisation appears to have occurred along a belt or zone, in which the alteration referred to is most apparent and which runs about N. and S., with a dip nearly vertical. On the surface this mineralised belt is indicated by a considerable iron cap, below which sulphides of iron and copper are apparent, associated with crystals of magnetite and garnet.

The development work done consists of various surface strippings, the most important of which was about 50 feet square, along the face of the bluff, where some blasting has been done. A slip joint in the country rock comes to the surface here, and is supposed to form one boundary of the mineralised belt.

Some 400 feet to the S. E. of this exposure a tunnel had been started, and was then in about 15 feet, in addition to