

FORT STEELE AND CRANBROOK.

The people of Fort Steele find that the Crow's Nest route will, as at present projected, not pass within five miles of Fort Steele, which has long been the mining and business centre of Southern East Kootenay. It is supposed, much to their annoyance, that the Hon. Col. Baker's townsite of Cranbrook is preferred. The men of Fort Steele have consequently suggested an alternative and as they hold easier route, which would bring within three quarters of a mile of Fort Steele the proposed East and West Kootenay extension of Canada's great railroad. This they have brought under the notice of the Hon. A. G. Blair, Dominion Minister of Railways and Canals, with a full statement as to the vested interests of their town as a mining and population centre. The Minister has in reply stated that he now hears the complaint and claim for the first time and will give the whole subject most careful consideration. He will see what can be done to meet the wishes of the people of Fort Steele, but is sorry that he did not possess the statement made on their behalf ere the Government contract with the C. P. R. was signed. Which doubtless means that moral suasion only can be used, the decision in the matter resting with the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. Whatever happens, "there will be wigs on the green" in East Kootenay ere long, when contending local and Provincial parties meet around the seething pot of politics.

DISAPPOINTED MIGRANTS.

The prospector passengers on the big collier Bristol, which has put back to Victoria, unable from various causes to reach St. Michael's, are in woeful plight, not receiving back their freight payments, and in the case of a number having spent their all or nearly their all on outfits. Those who fitted out at Victoria are, it seems, by the kindness of the supplying merchants, likely to get back the bulk of the money paid in return for the goods, but it is doubtful whether those fitted out at Seattle will be equally well treated. However, the unfortunate men may be thankful to have escaped the dire perils attendant on a winter entry into the grim Yukon country, whence come more and more persistent rumors of widespread want to ensue during the coming winter months. There has it seems been an almost criminal substitution of whiskey imports for food certain to be urgently needed by several thousand people in the Yukon, who would be fortunate were there far less whiskey available for them.

MAP OF CAYOOSH CREEK.

There is now on sale at the MINING CRITIC office the best map yet published complete with all claims recorded to date of the famous Cayoosh Creek dis-

MATTE SHIPMENTS.

The matte shipments recorded at the support of Nelson for the week ending September 4th were as follows: Trull smelter, 59½ tons; Hall Mines smelter, 166½ tons; total value, \$100,283.

ALBERNI'S ORE.

The Champion Mine, Alberni, has just shipped to the Victoria Metallurgical Works for treatment a consignment of 300 sacks of rich looking gold bearing ore. The result of the test is anxiously awaited by those interested in this and neighboring mines about Alberni.

THE HALL MINES SMELTER.

This smelter continues doing a large amount of good work, having in the four weeks ending August 27th, treated 5,766 tons of ore, which yielded 522 tons of matte, composed approximately of 232 tons of copper, 157,360 ounces of silver and 215 ounces of gold. The Hall Mines smelter has also recently made to Swansea, South Wales, another consignment of 50 tons of blister copper.

ANOTHER LONDON COMPANY.

The Fairview Gold Mining Co., Limited, has been formed in London to take over and work the Joe Dandy, Daisy Dean, Atlas and Belmont claims in Fairview, on which considerable tunnelling has been done. Lord Kintore is Chairman of the Company, formed under a capital of £100,000, of which £30,000 will when subscribed, be used for development. The property is sold for £70,000 to the Company.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST STAMP MILL.

With 7,000,000 tons of ore in sight, the Treadwell mine on Douglas island, Alaska, is soon to have the largest stamp mill in the world. It has been decided to double the capacity of the plant, making the number of the stamps 300. The next largest mill in size is located in South Africa, and has 280 stamps. The Treadwell will mine its product at a cost of \$1 a ton and will produce \$125,000 monthly.

BRIDGE RIVER DISTRICT.

This district of Lillooet is rapidly coming to the front, and here Mr. J. Barnett MacIaren, the largest holder in and a chief promoter of the Alpha Bell Co., Limited, which works a neighbor mine to the Golden Cache, has just bonded for \$20,000 purchase money, \$5,000 being paid down, the Ida May and an adjoining claim on Cadwallader Creek, Bridge River. Mining experts have a very good opinion of the prospects of the Bridge River district as a free milling gold producer, but their opinion has yet of course to be tested, as it is now certain to be in

PROSPECTORS LEAVE THE HILLS.

Heavy snow is falling in the mountains about Rossland and the prospectors are in general beginning to leave the hills for winter quarters in the towns.

MINE SHIPMENTS.

The total mine shipments recorded for August from Nelson, Kaslo, Rossland and Trail showed an aggregate value in ore and matte of \$675,180. A goodly sum, considering that the other West Kootenay shipments, made via Revelstoke, are not therein included.

A SUGGESTION.

Mr. W. T. Thompson, who knows the country, suggests that prospectors might do worse than carefully examine the hills about the various creeks along the North Thompson River, and more especially about Cariboo Lake, where in particular much float is noticeable, so, too, quartz stringers and veins. The district has hitherto, it would seem, been but little prospected.

RAILROAD EXTENSIONS.

Six miles of standard gauge track out of 21 required have now been laid on the line of the Columbia & Western Railroad between Trail and Robson, and the completion of the remainder of the route will be pushed with all speed. Meanwhile the C. P. R. has laid three miles of the track of the Slocan River branch line, which will, it is expected, be completed for the whole of its length of 24 miles by October 15th next. These extensions mean much for the Trail and Slocan districts respectively.

MORE WORKING COAL MINES.

The Crow's Nest coal deposits are about to be opened and worked by the Company with which Mr. Jaffray, president of the Toronto Globe Newspaper Co. and the Hon. Col. Baker, M.P.P., are connected. Mr. Jaffray and Mr. W. Blakemore, an eminent coal mining engineer from Cardiff, South Wales, are now visiting the property in order to establish a scheme of working. The C. P. R., with which Mr. Jaffray and his associates have, as all the world knows, established most satisfactory and intimate relations, will cordially cooperate by granting freight rates and other facilities, towards making the Crows Nest coal mines a big commercial success. The Hon. Col. Baker, who is thus about to realise that for which he has been assiduously working for years, is the President of the reorganised company which will work these mines, whose output should in due course rival that of some of the best of the Nanaimo district collieries, and by the addition thus made to B.C.'s coal industry make the Province easily the largest coal producer in the