

TROUBLE REGARDING SHIPMENT OF MACHINERY FOR REPUBLIC.

Department at Washington Says It Cannot Be Allowed — Protest on the Part of Mine Owners.

Grand Forks, E. C., Nov. 21. —There appears to be no end of trouble over the shipment of machinery and other freight over the C. P. R. for Republic. It was thought all difficulties in the form of United States customs regulations had been removed, but Colonel Heustis, the United States customs officer at Port Townsend, has written a letter to the C. P. R. authorities saying the treasury department at Washington has decided that shipments as proposed cannot be allowed because of the violation of a section of the law regarding the breaking of the seals on shipments before they reach the boundary line. As it is now, shipments from Republic come over the C.P.R. to the Grand Fork depot, and the seals are there broken, and the consignments loaded into wagons and hauled several miles through British territory before reaching the boundary line at Nelson.

Travelling Freight Agent McDonnell went to Republic Thursday carrying with him a petition to the secretary of the treasury at Washington setting forth the hardships that will fall upon mine owners and shippers generally if shipments via Grand Forks are prohibited. It is proposed to have the Mountain Lion, Republic, and Republic Reduction company people, all of whom are going to build big mills, sign this petition, and forward it at once.

These three concerns have nearly 2,000,000 pounds of machinery coming for their mills and they want the shortest possible wagon haul on it, so they are anxious to have it come via Grand Forks. Two or three car loads of the Mountain Lion machinery are already here, and some of it has been actually unloaded and placed on wagons and started to Republic. This may be turned back, and may have to be reloaded at the cars and sent around to Bossburg.

Altogether there is a most unhappy and unfortunate state of affairs. The loss and inconvenience to Republic mine owners and shippers would be enormous, and it is not impossible that there will be a sort of indignation meeting in the big reservation camp.

If the C. P. R. had a line down to the boundary line at Carson there would be no trouble, for shipments could then be sent through in bond with the seals unbroken till they should reach American territory. The C. P. R. already has a line surveyed out to Carson, which is but three miles from the main line of the road at the Grand Forks station. It is a level prairie almost the entire distance, and the cost of running a spur out there would be very small. The C. P. R. may conclude to build this spur, especially in view of the probable construction at an early day of a railroad from Republic up to the B. C. boundary line in order that the Republic ores may come to the Granby smelter here. It is understood that the Republic Mining company have asked President Hill of the Great Northern, if he will get out of the way and permit them to use the right of way down the Curlew and Kettle river valleys to Grand Forks. It is expected the matter will be decided in a few days. If the Republic company build they will be ready to commence at once and have the road running within three months. Altogether the situation is a most interesting one.

G. H. Hays, superintendent of the Granite and Banner mine, Camp McKinney, is in town on his way to Toronto. Negotiations for the sale of this free milling proposition to a Canadian syndicate are now in progress.

"With a five-stampmill," said Mr. Hays to your correspondent, "we have been turn-

ing out a gold brick weekly since the first of June. The output, according to richness of the ore, has varied in these periodical clean-ups, from \$355 to \$697. The ledge has been proven by a series of workings, including open cuts and shafts, the main shaft having attained a depth of 110 feet. Owing to the facility with which the ore can be removed we are working in a 40-foot winze sunk from the end of a tunnel 80 feet long. A crosscut in this working has shown the ledge to be 18 feet wide, and gives values ranging from \$17 to \$40 per ton. Employing only ten men, the average of net profits every week exceed \$340. As soon as a large plant is installed, proportionate results will be achieved.

NORTH STAR WILL SOON BEGIN TO SHIP ORE.

Large Reserves Are in Sight.

Mr. Frank Robbins, manager of the mining interests of Messrs. McKenzie & Mann, reports that work on the North Star mine, in East Kootenay, is making excellent progress under the able superintendency of Mr. J. L. Parker. The North Star has large reserves of ore, and as Mr. Robbins says, Mr. Parker is getting at the ore in such good shape that the output will be large. Mr. Parker, he says, is the right man in the right place, as his experience in mines both in Europe and this continent, eminently fit him for the position. Mr. Robbins is more than pleased with the results which he has already attained. A tramway with a capacity of 60 tons in 10 hours is being constructed to the railway line. This tramway is a mile in length. The railway is graded up Mark creek, one of the tributaries of the St. Mary, to the end of the tramway. It is anticipated that steel will be laid within the next two or three weeks and then shipping from the North Star will be commenced.

In relation to the Boundary Creek country where Mr. Robbins is engaged in looking after the properties of McKenzie & Mann, he said that the town of Phoenix is growing rapidly. A number of large and small buildings have been and are being constructed, and the population is between 800 and 1,000. On the Brooklyn and Stemwinder a large hoisting plant is being put in, which will be able to hoist 500 tons a day from a depth of 1,000 feet. A new compressor is being added that will have a capacity of 30 drills. The power is to be increased so that it will aggregate 400 horse power. From this time it will be seen that mining on an extensive scale is in progress on these two properties and that work is to be pushed, to the end that they may be made to produce at the earliest possible moment that is in consonance with economical mining.

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Republic Consolidated Gold Mining
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Notice is hereby given that a dividend of one cent. per share has been declared payable

December 15th,

to stockholders of record of November 30th, 1899.
By order.

D. F. HALLAHAN,

Secretary.

Nov. 23th, 1899.

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