

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The New Gold Fields at Cape Nome: Their History, Location and Output; by Ivan Brostrom. San Francisco. Phillips & Smith. Price 50 cents.

There has been so much nonsense written about these new gold fields, that it is quite refreshing to find in the pages of this little booklet, what is evidently a plain and unvarnished account of the Cape Nome diggings. There can, meanwhile, be no doubt concerning the existence of really rich placer ground on several of the creeks of the district, while the beach-claims have in many instances been very profitably worked with the most primitive appliances. The discovery of gold was first made in 1898 by a Swedish missionary who had been informed by Indian converts that the precious metal had been found by them in the rivers emptying into the ocean at Cape Nome. In consequence of this information prospecting parties were organized and promising ground discovered on the Snake River and its tributaries. News of these discoveries was reported at St. Michaels on the 25th of November, 1898, and "people by the hundreds flocked over the ice to Cape Nome, when they staked, not only the creeks, gulches and benches, but also planted their stakes high up on the sides and tops of the mountains. . . . Thus, through what is termed a "Power of Attorney," the whole country, within 25 square miles, was taken possession of by a few hundred people. The richest stream as yet proved, is a tributary of the Snake River, known as Anvil Creek, and it is stated that last summer, gold to the value of \$50,000 to \$150,000 was recovered from individual claims, while from a claim in Snow Gulch \$300,000 was taken. The gold from the bench diggings is very fine and difficult to save with the crude "rocker," but notwithstanding, the average clean-up per man for six weeks' work, is estimated at \$600. And when it is remembered that there were no less than two thousand workers crowding each other on this narrow strip of sea-beach the estimate, if correct, shows sufficiently well. The concluding pages are devoted to hints on the best method to employ in recovering flour gold from beach gravel, and a description of the conditions of life in this far-northern Eldorado.

THE MONTH'S MINING.

TEXADA ISLAND.

ON the Copper Queen at the 400-foot level a body of ore was struck some weeks since, and on February 10th had been drifted on for 40 feet, the ore having been mined from the drift so as to expose a thickness of about twenty feet at the thickest part. This ore is high-grade bornite carrying gold values, the gangue being composed of fibrous hornblende, with many actinolite crystals and garnets. This ore body occurs on the contact between limestone and felsite, the latter being on the foot wall side. Apparently the ore fills a cavity in the limestone. It has not been determined whether this body is connected with the ore bodies on the upper level, but in all probability it is not.

The Cornell mine is being thoroughly exploited, comprising at present 450 feet of workings which have been carefully surveyed, and the connection between the occurrences of ore is thus being determined. This property has been an ore producer from the grass

roots, but the permanency of the ore bodies or their structure has not been fully determined as yet. The ore in the Cornell occurs on the contact between limestone and felsite. The smelter is being supplied from the company's own properties chiefly. A limited quantity has been bought from the Marble Bay property, the iron mines on the West Coast and the Lenora mine at Mount Sicker on Vancouver Island.

Until upraises to prove the connection of the occurrences of ore on the various levels in the Copper Queen mine are made and the drifts extended, it would be very difficult to correctly measure up the ore in sight, but from a casual examination it would appear that in the Copper Queen and Cornell mines there is sufficient to furnish the smelter with about 40 tons a day for a year.

SHOAL BAY.

"To be or not to be" a mining district? that is the all-absorbing topic here just now, for never have affairs in general or mining in particular been duller than at present. There are those who have stayed by the camps in the face of all discouragement, but even their faith is oozing away, for we are deserted by the present paternal government, whom we have helped to enrich by many a thousand dollars, who with all their high falutin twaddle about helping the miner by "eight-hour" laws, and "Acts to regulate the length of hair to be worn by miners," etc., etc., have done nothing as yet for this portion of British Columbia. It cannot be said that the vault lies with the district, for large ore bodies have been found, which could be profitably worked on a large scale, but capital is scarce to invest in a country where it has no guarantee against legislative freaks.

KAMLOOPS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

There has been a very active enquiry in regard to Kamloops mining properties during the last month, which has resulted in the "bonding" of several highly promising groups of mineral claims to representatives of outside capital. Among others the Gordon group on the South Thompson has been bonded to a M. Grauer until April 1st, 1900, on behalf of a French syndicate. This is a promising gold-silver proposition. The veinstuff is quartz and the values are carried in iron pyrites. The vein is massive and shown by surface work for 2,000 feet. A shaft is down over 50 feet and there is also a considerable extent of drifting all in ore. Some bands carry 1.5 ozs. of gold in addition to silver values, the whole body averaging \$12 to \$15 in gold and silver.

The Homestake on Jamieson Creek, North Thompson, is bonded to an English syndicate, who will commence development work on a large scale early in the spring.

The Kimberley group on Coal Hill has been bonded by Mr. F. Jackson, of Rossland, who makes a cash payment of \$8,000 and agrees to deliver to the owners 20 per cent. of the stock in a company to be formed to work the property. This group possesses a very fine copper showing. The vein is 60 feet wide, some bands carrying 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. copper with \$3.00 to \$6.00 gold values. A good deal of development work has been done on this claim, including a tunnel which has been driven 230 feet to cross-cut the vein and is now 18 feet into the vein, showing good values. It is estimated that a syndicate repre-