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**MINING.****BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

In a very short time the West Kootanie district will be comparatively easy of access. Three-fourths of the railroad from Sproat is completed and the right of way has been cleared the whole distance to Nelson. On the other side of the "boundary line," the Great Northern Railway has established an office at Bonner's Ferry, Idaho—the starting point for the steamers on the Kootanie lake—and desire bids for clearing its right-of-way, which passes about 5 miles south of Bonner's Ferry.

The winter has been exceptionally mild; no snow at Nelson now; indeed, it is reported that the valleys 400 miles north of here are free from snow.

**HOT SPRINGS DISTRICT.**

*Dictator.*—A new tunnel is being driven, which is expected to tap the ledge 100 feet below the former workings. The tunnel is now in 115 feet.

*Krao, Skyline, United.*—These mines are now equipped with hoisting and pumping plants, but the Krao will lie idle until the spring, when the property will probably be stocked. The last lot of the Skyline ore (1,800 sacks in all) left for the Anaconda smelter on the 4th of December. Three shifts are at work on the double compartment shaft, now down 104 feet. The United shaft is down 65 feet, and drifts are being run from this station in both directions. About 1,000 tons of ore are being hauled from the United to the ore house on the lake shore, whence it will be shipped to the Revelstoke smelter as soon as navigation opens.

*Neosho.*—The shaft is now down 46 feet, with a nice body of high-grade ore at the bottom.

*Number One.*—The upraise from the 400-foot tunnel to drain the 17 foot incline shaft has been completed. In the upraise a five-foot body of vein matter was discovered, 18 inches of which was solid ore, the rest a mixture of galena and gangue. The latter contained bunches of native silver. Ten men are at work on the property.

*Old Timer.*—This claim, one of the United group, shows up a 3 foot ledge, 12 inches of which gives assays of \$135 to \$200. Eight samples from the Old Timer gave assays of 32 to 950 ounces in silver, average = 234 ounces. Work will be prosecuted through the winter.

*Tenderfoot.*—The new shaft is down 46 feet, showing ore all the way, which averages about 40 ounces. Small bunches of native silver are frequently struck in sinking. A "Crown-grant" has been applied for.

**NELSON DISTRICT.**

*Dandy.*—The shaft is down 37 feet, and the vein is said to be changing in character. Previously it chiefly consisted of copper pyrites and galena, but now shows fine peacock ore and gray copper. Some water is coming in, but not sufficient to cause any trouble.

*Grizzly Bear, Silver Queen.*—These two claims, located upon what are supposed to be spurs of the Silver King lead, have been sold to J. E. Boss, of Spokane Falls, for \$8,000. The conditions of the sale, however, require the procuring of "Crown grants" of the properties before the purchase money is paid. A 65-foot shaft has been sunk on the Grizzly Bear, but only about \$500 of work has been done on the Silver Queen. Rich ore has been obtained from both claims.

*Morning, Evening.*—A one-eighth interest in these claims was recently sold to Peter Steep, of Spokane Falls, for \$2,000. Work has been recommended on the Evening tunnel, now in 140 feet. The ledge is from 4 to 11 feet wide, carrying galena, much quartz, oxides of manganese and iron and a little silver.

*Silver King Mining Company.*—The lower tunnel is now in about 380 feet, and the bottom of the 162-foot winze will be reached in March. A short time ago this winze (100 feet deep) was full of water; now there is only about 30 feet. The floor of the tunnel is quite dry. For the last 130 feet ore has been encountered in the tunnel—in fact the width of the ore body is unknown, neither wall having yet been exposed—but not until lately has ore of good grade been found. Eight carloads of machinery for the company have arrived from Chicago. Including, as it does, a complete hoisting plant, and a wire rope tramway, it may be seen that the owners are figuring upon active work as soon as the machinery can be taken up to the mine.

**CANADA.****PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.**

*Badger.*—The report reaches us from Canada that the recent visit to Port Arthur of two prominent St. Louis gentlemen, well known in mining circles, was made for the purpose of examining the famous mine. The two gentlemen referred to are doubtless Messrs. Charles Clark and Charles Kaufman, whose intended visit to the Dominion was mentioned at the time in the *Engineering and Mining Journal*. Negotiations for the outright purchase of this mine were entered into some time ago, and this examination is said to have been very satisfactory to the visitors, who have now returned to St. Louis. There are five different veins in the Badger which are being worked at the present time, and all of which carry silver, some assays running as high as 22,000 ounces. The smelter runs from car lots shipped to New Jersey range from 2,315.5 to considerably higher. Mining Engineer Achille Falco in a report on the Badger, says he considers the property one of great value, which has passed the age of speculation.—*The Engineering and Mining Journal*.