THE WEEK'S MINING

By H. M. L.

The Granby Company has set the example in British Columbia of mining on a large scale. It now proposes, or so it is announced, to further extend the scope and magnitude of its operations by an undertaking at once courageous and ambitious. This scheme contemplates the driving of a two or three track tunnel a distance of between two or three miles from either Eholt creek, or possibly Greenwood, to Phoenix with the object of opening up the ore bodies at a depth of over 2,000 feet, and the company has given notice of its intentions of applying to the provincial legislature for the necessary authority and powers to carry the project into effect.

The conception, it is thought, may be the means of solving the problem of mining the low-grade Boundary deposits at depth, while also a great saving should be effected in transportation costs, should a smelter be built in the immediate vicinity of the tunnel entrance, the twenty-five mile haulage to Grand Forks being thereby avoided. Before, however, the company finally decide to engage in so large and expensive an undertaking as that suggested, it is natural to suppose that the continuity of the ore-bodies to the depth of two thousand feet will be as accurately as possible determined by diamond drilling. At present the drilling has only been continued to a depth of approximately 800 feet.

A recent official note to the cabled returns from the Le Roi mine for October, attributed the poor showing for that month to special and unexpected smelter losses. Mr. E. V. Wilson, manager of the Northwest smelter, is reported in an interview as denying absolutely the accuracy of this statement. He remarks, however, that the alleged loss in October was in consequence of new development work. Since May last the blast furnaces at Northport have been remodelled by the addition of side feeds, the buildings have been re-roofed, in addition to other general improvements. The cost of these repairs and changes have been against operating expenses but this, notwithstanding, Mr. Wilson claims that he has been able to reduce the cost of smelting sixty cents per ton of dry ore as compared with that of last year's costs.

It is hoped that the Hendryx process may be successfully applied to the treatment of Republic camp ores, which, owing to their highly siliceous character, are costly to smelt, or rather the smelters can only advantageously use at the present time, a comparatively small proportion of the quantity the mines are capable of producing. Tests with the Hendryx are shortly to be applied to ores from the Mountain Lion mine, and should these prove satisfactory it is probable that the plant will be installed, not only on that property but also on the Lone Pine, Quilp, and the Tom Thumb. It is to be noted, meanwhile, that the Republic company, after many vicissitudes, has at length gone into liquidation.

Although silver-lead production this year has been wretchedly small, and no immediata results have apparently followed the granting of the government bounty, the indications are that conditions in 1904 will show decided improvement. There is no doubt that preparations are being made at the more important mines of the Slocan for a recommencement of production activities on a more important scale, while the announcement has been made that the St. Eugene, at Moyie, is to be reopened early in the spring—probably by the first of March. As this property is in a position to mine a tonnage of ore equal to the aggregate average output of the whole Slocan district, it is more than likely that the silver-lead yield in 1904 will at least not fall short of the record achievement of 1900.

A lengthy circular has been issued by the Slough Creek Company in which the company's engineer states that as the result of careful daily measurements the total flow of water now amounts to about 780 gallons per minute, and the present capacity of the pumps is 1,000 gallons a minute, so that unless the present outflow should be substantially increased the pumping plant is sufficiently adequate. Owing to the existence of heavy pressure it is reported that it is impossible to open up the bedrock gravels, and he anticipates that for the next few months it will be necessary to reduce the amount of water by steady pumping. At the end of this period should the water show no signs of decreasing, the manager indicates the necessity of installing additional pumps and for this purpose advises the installation of Cornish pumps, a type which, it will be remembered, Mr. William Thompson discarded in favor of the Worthington. A note from the chairman appended to the report states that the expenditure at the mine will now be considerably reduced, and pumping can be carried on for a considerable period with the funds already called up. The length of this period is not mentioned. Two important facts have in his opinion been established: (1.) That there is no connection between the surface water and that in the lower levels; and (2.) the richness of the channel has been further proved by the gold taken from the bore holes in the lowest upraise. No detailed description of the latest test has, however, yet been published.

Matters at Rossland are moving rapidly, and hardly a week now passes without the receipt of intelligence of an altogether gratifying and encouraging nature regarding the progress taking place and the steady improvement in conditions. The fact that the copper-gold ore deposits in British Columbia are generally low-grade in character, is, it may be remarked, only just beginning to be reached. Half the failures and disappointments in the past are attributed to ignorance, culpable or otherwise, of this circumstance. Conditions were not carefully considered or provision afterwards made to meet them. Companies were floated and capital invited to invest on the utterly fallacious assumption that rich surface ore, the result not infrequent of oxidisation, represented the average grade of the ore bodies. Accordingly effort was all directed towards the exploitation of rich chutes, at the expense of scientific and careful development. Then a badly-gutted mine would be shut down and the public would be informed that here was another instance of the uncertainty of mining in British Columbia, and a further proof that it was impossible to place dependence on the maintenance of values with depth. But, fortunately, in some few cases conditions have been better appreciated and understood, and for some little time past a few mine operators in Rossland and elsewhere have set themselves the task of solving a problem, which they were aware must be successfully tackled before there could be any assurance of the establishment of the industry upon anything resembling a permanently profitable footing. The solution of this problem is now seemingly in sight, and eminent engineers usually reticent and careful of hasty expression, have not hesitated to publicly assert in Rossland, that before the close of another year it will be possible to turn the large bodies of low-grade ores on Monte Christo and Kootenay mountains, which heretofore have been to all practical purposes valueless, to commercial account. In the case of Boundary, one can well remember how only a few years ago, even so optimistically-inclined an authority as Mr. Carlyle, the former provincial mineralogist, expressed doubt and misgiving at the idea of profitably mining the enormous low-grade deposits of that district, his somewhat unfavorable view was endorsed with emphasis by mining engineers and metallurgical experts of repute, until almost quite lately. Yet it is now admitted that a little beter than four dollar rock can be made to pay a fair margin of profit in the Boundary. The conditions in Rossland are not analagous, it is true; but in a sense they are more favorable. In Boundary the mines must be worked on a very big scale; it is almost necessary that each company own its own smelting works, consequently a considerable original outlay is required, and a large reserve working capital is indispensable. But in Rossland the cost of installing either Hendryx or the Elmore plants is ralatively moderate and once installed it should be possible to mine on a very moderate scale, and yet at a profit. The developments now taking place in Rossland are in fact most momentous, for the successful solving of this problem, will unquestionably largely assist in establishing the mining industry of the province—not in Rossland only—on a more solid foundation: it will open up enormous areas of now unworked mineral country, and generally be the means of creating greater confidence in the mineral resources of the province, and removing the depression which of late years has overshadowed the industry.

On Monday the Wellington Colliery Company struck anthracite coal in No. 7 mine, Cumberland, where the driving of a slope has been in progress for many months. The seam is seven feet and the coal burns clear and bright. The water is now quite under control, and the work is proceeding continuously with three shafts daily. The output from the Extension colliery in November was 14,204 tons.

Big Bond.—A promising discovery of free-willing gold quartz has been made on the west side of McCullough creek, between Goldstream and Ground Hog Basin.

Poplar Creek.—A first shipment of a car load of ore from the Marquis and Gilbert group of claims has been made to the Trail smelter.

Slocan.—The Payne shipped last week a number of tons of iron, extracted from the zinc in the new electrical plant to the Trail smelter for fluxing purposes. The Last Chance has resumed shipment and the Slocan Sovereign has been leased and bonded, after being idle for over two years.

Ymir.—The October returns from the Ymir mine show that 5,500 tons of ore were crushed producing 937 ounces of bullion; 365 tons of concentrates, to the gross estimated value of $7,750; the cyanide plant treated 2,650 tons of tailings, producing bullion to the estimated gross value of $1,950. The loss for the month is placed at $3,863, while $4,250 was spent on development.

Nelson.—The amount of ore received at the Hall mines smelter during the month of November was 3,482 tons. The product was 538 tons.

Rossland.—Mr. Maclean, a director of the Velvet mine, recommends as a result of a recent visit of inspection to the property, the installation of a small pyritic smelting plant with a capacity up to 100 tons a day. He states that had the company been in a position to concentrate or smelt the ore shipped last year, a saving of nearly $40,000 would have been effected. It is further proposed to amalgamate the Velvet and Portland mines, reducing the combined capital of the two companies to a sum upon which dividends could, with reasonable hope, be paid. It is stated that the London board has in consequence decided upon the erection of a smelter in the spring and the carrying out of a new scheme of development work on the property.

At the Velvet the percentage of iron was too heavy for successful concentration, the percentage of copper too large for the adoption of the Hendryx process, the haul by wagon too long to admit of the ordinary shipment to outlaying smelters, and the pyritic smelting is therefore considered to be the only process practicable under the circumstances. Pyritic smelting will produce a matte concentrating 20 tons or thereabouts into one, and the value of that matte will probably be about $400 to the ton, if the grade this year be kept. A lower grade, opening up more bodies, will, of course, be practicable under these circumstances.

Boundary.—The annual report of the B. C. (Rossland & Slocan) syndicate, refers to the satisfactory results attending the development of the Snowshoe mine at Phoenix, in which the syndicate is the largest shareholder. The development of this mine this year has shown up large ore-bodies, and the shipments have been considerably increased. On the syndicate's other properties a considerable amount of work has been done. The issued capital amounts to £84,993, and the assets figure in the balance sheet at £181,824, including mineral claims, real estate and the shares in mining companies at cost.

The C. P. R. is building a branch line of the C. & W. Ry. to the Brooklyn and Stemwinder mines.

The Senator mine, in the Summit camp, has been announced to ship ore.

The assistant-superintendent of the Montreal & Boston Copper Company sends me the following record of the ores treated at the Montreal & Boston Copper Company's smelter at Boundary Falls, B. C., for the current year, with December estimated:

Tonnage of ore treated and metal contents for 1903:

	Weight (tons)	Gold (oz.)	Silver (oz.)	Copper (lbs.)
Wet Ores..	132,253	7,850.005	52,278.74	3,041,104
Dry Ores..	317	150.906	20,474.57	.....
	132,570	8,000.911	72,953.31	3,041,104
United States ores treated;—	1,661	615.122	4,592.69	

East Kootenay.—The lower tunnel at the Paradise mine, Windermere district, has now been driven to a distance of 1,000 feet. The original contract for this work contemplated a drive of 2,000 feet, which would give a great depth on the ore body. The East Kootenay (Placer Mining Company has been reorganized under the new title of the Perry Creek Gold Dredging Company, with a capital of $500,000, 250,000 shares being reserved for treasury purposes.

$1,000 FOR AN IDEA.

Here is a chance for our readers. To any person who can suggest premiums than can be adopted and will prove more popular and greater value than the two pictures, "Heart Broken" and "Hard to Choose," and the quick reference colored map of the Dominion with enlarged maps of this province, which are this year given with The Family Herald and Weekly Star of Montreal, the publishers of that great weekly will pay one thousand dollars. This year's premiums are certainly of immense value, and will be hard to surpass. However, there is 1,000 waiting for any one else who can improve on them.

Discovered New Pass.—By the discovery of a new pass in the Rocky Mountains, the Mackenzie River country has been brought 300 miles nearer Dawsonn. The pass was discovered by W. N. Craigie, the hunter and trapper, who arrived at Dawson from the other side of the mountains a few days ago. The old trail, which was by the Porcupine, swung around to Dawson in a huge semi-circle. The new one is laid out on straight lines. Craigie made the journey to Dawson from the new pass in four days. He was the first white man ever to cross it. The Indians were in ignorance of its existence. The new crossing has been named the Seela Pass.

HISTORICAL REMINISCENCES.

December 10, 1903.

To the Editor, Colonist:

As this letter contains the conclusion of the memoirs of the late Hon. Roderick Finlayson, it may be as well to state that it is the end of a series published in the Colonist of October 18, 1903, headed "How We Lost Oregon"; October 26th, explanatory, and under heading Historical Reminiscences, November 21st, 26th, 29th, and December 6, 1903. Yours, etc.

J. S. HELMCKEN.

The company now, this year, 1849, having taken in hand the colonization of the island, Mr. Blanchard was appointed in England to come out as Governor, and arrived here in a frigate from Panama in 1850, the spring of the following year. There being then no government house, the Governor took up his abode in the fort in a room provided for him, adjoining the mess room. The Governor, according to his instructions, formed a legislative council of three members, old retired servants of the company induced to settle on the island.

In 1851 the company sent out two ships with laborers to work farms the company had established in Victoria and Esquimalt, i. e., Langford Plains and Coustance Cove districts, with bailiffs to carry them on, (Langford and Skinner, and McKenzie at Craigflower). The most of these laborers on arrival, having taken the gold fever, deserted, and the consequence was that farming dragged its slow length along for years. This gold fever extended to the north end of the island, Fort Rupert causing tragic occurrences. The Puget Sound Company and the Hudson's Bay Company, as colonization agents, were distinct offshoots of the Hudson's Bay Company, although in some instances and times superintended and carried on by the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company. Mr. Douglas in this way controlled the bailiffs. Under such untoward conditions, dislocations and competition, Vancouver island colonization commenced. California had numerous and wonderfully rich gold mines, an attraction irresistible—a tremendous gamble for extraordinary stakes. California had a beautiful climate, lands of almost unlimited extent, and her neighbor, Oregon, had an abundance of rich plains, ready for the plough. California, being a territory of the Union, had millions of enterprising Americans at her back to draw from, and these comparatively near at hand. America had ships to convey the multitudes from American ports. In every way the climate, gold, land, invited people and immigration to her own country, through her own domain.

What had Vancouver island to offer to direct or divert this rapid, boisterous, turbulent current to her shores? Nothing! True, she had a beautiful climate, timber, small plains, and magnificent mountains. Please remember that at this time the vast riches of her mountains, coal mines, metals and fisheries were entirely unknown. She had no population at her back to draw on, Canada had none to spare. England and Europe far away, and the peoples of these countries, having but little and infrequent communication, were for the most part utterly ignorant of such a place as Vancouver island existing—it was out of the world. Then again, it took six months to get here by ship, and at great expense, too, and pray do not forget that from California to the North Pole the whole country was a wilderness, inhabited only by Indians and beasts of the forest, perhaps less ferocious. Vancouver island looked like a sea of gigantic mountains, covered with gigantic trees. Who would undertake to clear these forests when land could be had on the American side for one dollar per acre? Can anyone nowadays fail to understand why Vancouver island colonization was not a success at first. It is no use looking to secondary causes, the primary one being overwhelmingly sufficient, viz.: the rich gold diggings of California. The times were out of joint. If gold had not been found in California, what would have been the result and future condition of Vancouver island colony and California? Gold is a materialized emblem of good and evil. Yet "with all thy faults we love thee still," our ruler and our idol from the cradle to the grave. If gold had not been found in 1848 in Fraser river, what would have been the condition of British Columbia and—Canada today? Gold seems to be the principle cause of the migrations of man, ancient as well as modern!

J. H. S.

Finlayson writes that:

In 1851 Governor Blanchard, finding but few people to govern, except the company's people, who looked more to the company's officers, with whom they had to deal than to the Governor, the latter got disgusted with the state of affairs and left for England, leaving Mr. Douglas, then senior member of the legislative council, to act as Governor.

Governor Blanchard was an agreeable, polished gentleman, not always in good health, but suffering from tic doloreaux, neuralgia. He had made a foolish agreement, viz.: instead of a salary he agreed to make his income out of uncultivated lands, situate, I think, in the Metchosin district. The company seems to have had an idea that the land could pay for everything—that is to say the income arising from it, like gentlemen's estates in England, cultivated for ages past—when perhaps the forests were as thick as those of Vancouver island and cleared by their savage ancestors, who painted their bodies blue. The company did not seem to recollect how much in previous labor the estates had cost. There were other reasons for his departure of no consequence now—he had sufficient to disgust him at all events, and there being neither honor nor profit, nor glory to be obtained from the office, but only disagreeables, he kicked the dust off his shoes. Governor Blanchard died in England a few years ago, having been an invalid for some time previously.—J. H. S. Mr. Douglas, according to the memoirs, was then appointed by the Home government Governor of the island, and I (Finlayson), was appointed by him a member of the legislative council, my commission as such having been signed by the Queen this year, (1852). I saw this commission a short time ago. It has Her Majesty's signature written with her own hand at the top, "Victoria," and is directed to our trusty and well-beloved James Douglas, Esq., our Governor and commander-in-chief in and over our island of Vancouver.

It goes on to say, "Roderick Finlayson, to be a member of the council of our island of Vancouver, and for so doing this shall be your warrant. Given at our court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, this sixteenth day of March, 1852, in the fifteenth year of our reign."

In those days all commissions for members of council and even justices of the peace had to be given by Her Majesty. Of course these commissions, that is to say, Her Majesty's signatures, are highly prized by their possessors.

The words "members of the first legislative council" does not mean first member of the first meeting of the councils. The council was a sort of non-elected and perpetual senate. As a member resigned or died another was appointed in his place by Her Majesty's commissioner. There was not a second legislative council, so all members may be said to have been members of the first council, but not at the same time nor in the first year. A list of the councilmen and date of their appointment may be found in the Williams directory, published about ten years ago.

This legislative council must not be confounded with the legislative assembly, called into existence a few years later, probably for the purpose of levying taxes, for up to this time, taxes either direct or indirect, did not exist—only one which the legislative council had passed to tax public houses which the home government appeared to think illegal, possibly on the ground that the people only had a right to tax themselves through their representatives. The legislature refused to tax the people; the Hudson's Bay Company must provide. The members did not know what to do with the liquor license fund—so little to do, so many things desired. The legislative assembly was a different affair. If a member retired in any way another had to be elected by the enfranchised. The first assembly expired by the effluxion of time, but they had provided a new Franchise Act for the election of the second and a large assortment of political trading stock.

Happy people! Yet they grumbled even then! Everything in those days had to be sent home for Her Majesty's approval—the accounts likewise. Not much chance of grafting then! It is singular, too, that the sayings and doings of this council have never attracted historians or antiquarians. Records must exist somewhere. The council was a highly respectable and useful body and continued to exist at the time of creation of the legislative assembly. There were two Houses of Parliament conducted at but little expense, and so the public were well provided with representatives. Who were and where were the public? This first legislature would not impose any taxes, first because there were but few to tax, but principally because they maintained that the Hudson's Bay Company had to provide for and pay for all.—J.S.H.)

Finlayson writes:

In 1850 I received my commission as Chief Trader after thirteen years of hard service, and in 1856 my commission as Chief Factor. In 1861 I received leave of absence from the company, and on my return I was appointed at my own request in 1862 to superintend the company's affairs in the interior of the country and retired from the company's service in 1872.

(This simply means that Finlayson became a (winter) partner in the Hudson Bay, and, instead of a salary of five hundred dollars a year he had a certain share in the profits made by the company. A Chief Factor, also a winter partner, I think, received two shares. The Hudson's Bay Company in England supplied the capital and carried on the trade there. The winter partners did the work of obtaining the furs in Canada. Of course the amount of profit varied from year to year according to the amount and value of the trade.—J.S.H.)

Finlayson says:

In 1849 I got married here in Victoria by the Rev. Mr. Staines, our chaplain, to Sarah, a daughter of Chief Factor John Work, in charge of Fort Simpson, where in 1842, Mr. Finlayson, as before related, says he found a comfortable, pleasant place. No wonder!

In 1872 Finlayson retired from the Hudson Bay Company and settled down to look after his private affairs and farm. He says the company, in order to preserve the grant of the island from the Crown, induced their officers to purchase land and establish farms, by getting laborers to work them on half shares. In this way Mr. Douglas, myself, Mr. Work and several others bought land at five dollars per acre as near the fort as the reservations would permit, and in this way settlements were formed and the conditions of the grant of the island from the Crown complied with.

In 1878 Finlayson was elected mayor of Victoria, and during his regime the contract for building the City Hall was signed. Municipal work, however, did not suit his honest, cautious and careful constitution, so he did not offer himself for re-election the following year, and further, quitted public life.

There the memoirs cease save to record the trips he took to England and Canada with some of his family. I am told he intended extending his memoirs, those heretofore given, bearing the date of 1891, but unfortunately, my friend for forty years was suddenly cut off in January, 1892. Peace be with him. His memoirs are the stamp of his faithful and true character. The concluding lines of his memoirs, memoirs solely written at the request of his wife and family, and therefore intended to be private, are "such is a brief history of my career since I began to work out my own way through life."

J. S. HELMCKEN.

P.S.—Finlayson forgot to mention that about 1851 he and some of the company's officers at Victoria, including Captain Wishart of the Norman Morrison formed a saw mill company, to erect a mill at the head of the lagoon at the entrance to Esquimalt harbor, shares £100 each. Captain Wishart bought a steam gangsaw mill in England, but neglected to bring out people to erect it, consequently the erection was bungled, and the mill came to its end a few years later by being accidently burned to the ground. No insurance offices at this time.

I came out in 1850 in the Norman Morrison with eighty immigrants, nearly all servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, under contract to the company for five years at £20 per annum, with free board, lodging, etc.

The Puget Sound Company's servants arrived within a couple of years after, but the Puget Sound Company's servants were to have at the end of their services five acres of land. They received and took it, for the most part on Victoria Arm. Other ships followed. It was supposed by the companies, that these people, at the end of their term of service, would become permanent settlers. Several did. They or their descendants being now the prominent and well-to-do farmers in our neighborhood. They have every reason to be thankful—they did not come out to search for metallic gold, but they found it in the crops of agricultural and other products procured by their industry from the soil—a permanent mine. So the Hudson's Bay Company did good work in occupying and colonizing Vancouver island, beautiful health-giving gem of the North Pacific ocean. Vancouver island forever! and one for the old Hudson's Bay Company and the privateers. Cheer, boys! Cheer!

J. S. H.

Despondent Hotel Man.—Mr. W. Benson, proprietor of the Arlington hotel, Nanoose bay, became despondent last Wednesday owing to poor business and unpaid bills and tried to hang himself. Failing to make a success of that he took Rough on Rats, and as soon as Jack Hamilton, who works for Benson, discovered what he had done, he gave him a good-sized dose of mustard and milk and in a few minutes the Rough on Rats came up and in an hour or two Benson was better. Then he started for Nanaimo saying he would be back next day. As he failed to show up Hamilton followed him only to find that Benson had left for parts unknown. Benson is well known in Nanaimo having at one time been bartender in a well known hotel there.

Vitiation of the air by burning gas always causes a feeling of oppression. Dr. J. S. Haldane shows that this cannot be due to the increase of carbon dioxide, and he attributes the effect to sulphur compounds, chiefly sulphur dioxide.

PACKING OF FRUIT.

The Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has issued the following bulletin:

A PLEA FOR QUALITY IN FRUIT.

In an address at the recent annual meeting of the American Pomological Society, held at Boston, Mr. G. Harold Powell gave some excellent advice in regard to growing fruit of first-class quality. Many of the points which he brought out were noted with approval by Mr. W. A. MacKinnon, chief of the Dominion Fruit Division, and are given here for the benefit of Canadian fruit-growers. Mr. Powell recommended as summer apples for the United States, Red Astrachan, Sweet Bough and Williams; for autumn apples, Gravenstein and Alexander; for winter the Greening, the Newton Pippin, which he stated had sometimes sold as high as $20 a barrel, the King, the Spitzenberg, Baldwin, Spy and MacIntosh Red. He recommended top grafting the King on two-year-old Spies, stating that in this way a vigorous tree bearing good crops would be obtained.

Regarding the Ben Davis, Mr. Powell made a very cutting criticism, declaring it had only one quality to recommend it, namely, its color; and stating that no fruit would take a prominent place in our markets or would continue to be a profitable one for growers, which depends upon a single virtue for its sale.

The Champion grape received a similar castigation. Its only virtue is its earliness, and this Mr. Powell thinks has made it one of the worst enemies of the grape-grower, inasmuch as the price of the Champions at first very high, drops almost to nothing. The last price of the Champion, or what the public are willing to pay after they have become acquainted with its wretched quality, fixes the prices of all other grapes which follow, though they are infinitely superior in quality to the Champion. In other words, rock bottom prices having been once fixed it is impossible to get back to normal prices.

Mr. Powell spoke rather more kindly of the Elberta peach, but is of the opinion that it also is not an unmixed blessing to the fruit-growers. It is a splendid shipper but has no quality.

The conclusion to be drawn from Mr. Powell's remarks is that whatever transient advantages may be obtained by the grower from the production of inferior varieties, it is to his permanent advantage, and it is his only wise policy to produce the highest quality in each sort of fruit which he places on the market.

Striking testimony to the value of such advice is furnished by some reports of fruit sales just received by the Fruit Division from London, England. On October 7, there were sold a large number of half-cases of Californian and other American pears, including about a dozen varieties. The Seckel, which is generally regarded as a pear of the highest quality, though small in size, sold for 12s; the Glout Morceau for 13s 6d; the Calabash (similar to our Bosc) for 11s; the Comice (one of the varieties recommended by the Fruit Division) for 11s to 12s. If we contrast these prices with those for fruit of inferior quality, we must conclude that the Englishman wants only the best fruit and that he is prepared to pay for it. Bartletts, which are certainly above medium quality fetched 6s to 7s! anjou, 9s; Clairgeau, 7s to 7s 6d; Duchess, 3s 9d to 4s; Hardy 2s 6d to 3s 9d; and Keiffers, which it is only fair to mention were "wet" only tenpence to 1s a cask. Large quantities of Canadian apples sold on the same day brought all the way from 10s to 25s per barrel (the latter figure being for Ribstons), with the great majority at 15s to 16s. On October 12, half-case of Comice pears were sold by the same firm for 11s 6d; while the Duchess variety fetched only 4s 3d, these being the only two sorts of pears handled that day. The highest figure for apples on that date was 23s, again to the credit of No. 1 Ribstons, while the lowest prices were 12s for No. 2 Pippins, and 13s for No. 2 Ribstons and Gravensteins. The wide variation of 10s per barrel between No. 1 and No. 2 Ribstons, is particularly worthy of notice, indicating as it does that quality is sure to tell.

BOXES FOR APPLES.

In view of the scarcity and high price of apple barrels this season, and of the fact that in some districts farmers find it impossible to procure barrels at any price, the Fruit Division recommends the general use of boxes. These can be had, knocked down, at almost any sawmill for about eight cents each, and they should not cost more than ten cents each made up. As three boxes hold about as many apples as a barrel, they will be found much cheaper than barrels at fifty cents each upwards. The boxes should be well and strongly nailed, and should hold about forty pounds of fruit. The dimensions of the boxes used by the Grimsby shippers are nine by twelve by eighteen inches, while the British Columbia standard box is ten by eleven by eighteen inches, these being inside measurements in both cases. The boxes should be made of strong material not less than five-eighths of an inch thick for the ends, and not less than three-eighths of an inch for the sides; the tops should have strips across the ends to prevent the weight of other packages, piled on top, from bearing directly on the fruit. It is also usual to leave open corners at the top and bottom for ventilation. Little or no packing material should be used as purchasers like to find the package quite full of fruit. A sheet of cardboard at the top and bottom will materially reduce the amount of injury from bruises. But it should be remembered that even in this year of scarcity of barrels, it will not do to ship anything but first-class fruit in boxes, as the reputation of the Canadian box and of the Canadian trade in general will greatly suffer if inferior or common fruit is exported in the box or any fancy package.

PROVINCIAL PRESS.

The razing of the Bealey block on Columbia avenue has revealed to passersby a log cabin in excellent repair standing on the rear of the lot formerly occupied by the premises now practically obliterated. The cabin has an interesting story, inasmuch as it was the first structure erected on the Rossland townsite. In 1891 Ross Thompson staked the townsite as a pre-emption, and in 1891 he recorded the ground at the record office in Nelson. In May, 1892, he built the first building, being assisted in the work by Lew Mulholland, owner of the St. Elmo and Deer Park properties. For some time the cabin was the only structure on the townsite, although there were, of course, a number of cabins on the side of Red mountain, where the pioneer prospectors lived. Thompson's shack was open house to all comers, and it was not unusual for fifteen men to sleep there over night. In February, 1895, John Houston, now of Nelson, started The Miner, and it was in Thompson's cabin that the cases and press were set up. Ross Thompson turned the press for the first copy of The Miner ever published in Rossland. — Rossland Miner.

C. A. Semlin was in Kamloops on Sunday in consultation with J. T. Robinson on matters concerning the Conservative party. The calling of a convention was discussed, and the 14th of January suggested as a suitable date.

A number of pioneers met last Saturday in Kamloops with the object to resuscitate the old Pioneers' Society which was formed here many years ago. They decided to hold a banquet on January 13th next, on which date officers will be elected.—Kamloops Sentinel.

Within the past eight weeks there have been three rich strikes made on three different properties in and around Mohawk creek—a tributary of Pool creek, which joins Fish river at Camborne. The first discovery was made on the Del Rey, a group of four claims which adjoins the Homestake groupe—owned by the McKay Bros. and Strutt. This property has had a good amount of development work done in the past season and exploratory work has shown up remarkably rich bodies of ore. There are six different ledges on the property and all of them have been uncovered at several different points on the lead.—Camborne Miner.

The monthly pay rolls of the Greenwood smelter, Mother Lode mine, Boundary Falls smelter, Sunset mine and the high grade mines surrounding Greenwood, aggregate a grand total of over $40,000 a month. In October the B. C. Copper Company's pay roll alone was over $22,000, and for November it was $21,750. The pay roll at the Boundary Falls smelter is about $8,000 a month.—Greenwood Times.

The coal mines at Morrissey had to close down last week for several days as a number of mud slides came down the mountain and blocked railway communications. The with a tonnage of 120,631—was with one exception, the smallest in the past quarter of a century. Casualties, too, according to the annual report of the Board of Trade issued recently, show a gradual decrease. First slide came down last Tuesday near the Junction, and on the next two days more slides followed, one of them carrying away about 300 feet of track, and seriously undermining the cribbing which supported the grade for some distance further.— Fort Steele Prospector.

More than a million dollars has been washed out of the golden gravels at Harper's Camp, on the Horsefly river, since the first party of white men, of which Jim Moore, of Quesnel Forks, and John McLean, of Quesnel, were members, first began rocking at the end of an island in the river. In one month's time the party of eight rocked out $20,000. Chinese companies have taken out, it is said, $600,000, and in all it is safe to say a million dollars have come out of this small camp since early days.—Nelson Economist.

TOLL OF THE SEA.

The number of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom totally lost last year—348. Last year these—including losses—numbered 5,318, which was 103 fewer than in 1901.

There has not, however, been a corresponding diminution in the number of lives lost. The total of the year ending June 30, 1902, was 1,637 persons, and the average for a quarter of a century 1,651.

During the past quarter of a century a total of 21,609 British vessels (including colonial) were totally lost. These had a tonnage of 6,369,380; and the annual loss of life was between 2,000 and 3,000.—London Daily Mail.

COMPARISON OF NAVAL STRENGTH.

"Sea Power" takes exception to figures contained in a recent comparison of naval strength by the secretary of the Navy League. As we have often pointed out, such comparisons cannot justly be made by the primitive process of lumping all classes of battleships together and comparing the round totals thus obtained. To begin with, urges this correspondent, foreign powers now own many more obsolete ships than we do. By the Navy League method the French battleship Hoche, of 11,000 tons, launched in 1886, is worth as much as the King Edward, recently launched, and of far greater tonnage and power. The only correct method of comparison between rival navies is to fix upon a date anterior to which no ships launched shall count; and even then the task presents difficulties of which the secretary of the League should be well aware. "Sea Power" discounts ships launched prior to 1890, with the following results: Great Britain, first class battleships, 42, tonnage, 581,688; France, 17 battleships, tonnage, 207,000; Russia, 15 ships, tonnage, 188,400; Germany, 18 ships, tonnage, 206,400. These totals include ships actually laid down, but not those projected. Assuming the general correctness of "Sea Power's" figures, it will be seen that we have ten more battleships than France and Russia, built and building, and that the tonnage is 185,500 in our favor. It will also be noticed how closely the German navy now approximate in strength, numbers, and tonnage to the French. If the Navy League is content to argue that the progress of the German navy must be closely watched, we are quite at one with that body. By the same methods of comparison "Sea Power" obtains the following figures for armored cruisers: Great Britain, 28; France, 16; Russia, 2; Germany, 5. Here the tonnage is greatly in our favor, even if one reckons all three rivals. Tonnage, it is admitted, is not an ideal method of comparison, since a British battleship of 15,000 tons does not carry a much heavier armament than some foreign ships of 13,000 tons. Yet the bigger ship certainly does possess higher qualities and notably, as Sir. W. White insists, in the matter of protection. Second and third class battleships "Sea Power" leaves out of the comparison, holding these to be unavailable for fleet actions in the open. But here, again, it is not wise to reckon upon all battles being fought on the high seas. The figures, however, have their value.—Naval and Military Record.

EXTREMELY AWKWARD FOR THE PROFESSOR.

In 1890, Mommsen, the famous German professor and classical historian, was arrested and locked up for hours by the Berlin police. He got into this difficulty through an invitation he received to attend a reception given by the present Emperor William:

On the night of the reception the street that leads to the castle was closed to all save the guests of the Emperor, all of whom, with the exception of Mommsen, arrived in carriages. The famous historian, whose manner of living exemplified his democratic principles, rode into Berlin from Charlottenburg on a car. Upon alighting from the car, Mommsen pressed his way through the throng. In a few minutes he came to the police line, and without hesitation started to pass on. He was promptly seized by a policeman and pushed back. It was too much for the old man's temper. Taking the book that he carried, he beat a tatoo with it on the policeman's head. "You ignorant Russian!" exclaimed the historian, using the term of extreme contempt among Prussians; "you ignorant Russian what do you mean by seizing old Mommsen. I'm old Mommsen, I tell you—Mommsen, Mommsen, Mommsen!" The policeman, dodging the further play of the book, looked at the old man's battered soft hat and seedy overcoat, and decided that he was a crank. Two hours later the Emperor received word that his missing guest was in the lock-up.

B. C. in London.—In the November issue of "Grocery," the well-known monthly magazine devoted to the British grocery trade and published in London, contains an interesting illustrated article on the British Columbia salmon fisheries. The cuts, which are numerous and very fine examples of photo-engraving, are published by courtesy of the Agent-General for British Columbia. The article deals, in a short space, exhaustively with a very large subject. It is believed that the publication of this article in a magzine so widely circulated and of such weight will do much good to British Columbia's industries.

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