

WM BLACKMORE, chief manager of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co., was in Montreal recently, and will leave for the scene of the company's operations at Coal Creek. Mr. Blackmore has visited the leading mining centres in Canada and the United States, and with the result that the most improved electric coal cutting machinery will be started in the Pass mines. Orders for machinery have already been given out in Montreal, Toronto and elsewhere to the value of \$100,000, while the company will erect about fifty beehive cooking ovens at Coal Creek for the purpose of supplying the article to the proposed smelter at Robson, B.C.

H. L. SIMMONS has purchased twenty acres near Nakusp, B.C., for a smelter site, and has also secured the water rights in that vicinity for the use of the proposed smelter. It will, it is said, be a plant similar in some respects to the one at Trail. It is thought at Nakusp that Mr. Simmons is connected with the parties who are about to erect a smelter at Vancouver. This company, it is claimed, intends to erect smelters at several points in the Kootenay country, and to send the product of these plants to the central refinery, at Vancouver, for separation into the several metals that are in the matte.

THE following papers and subjects were presented and discussed at the meeting of the British Columbia Association of Mining Engineers, held in Badminton Hotel, Vancouver, a short time ago: "Notes on Mining Law and its Application to Mines and Mining Districts," by Frank C. Loring, M.E., Rossland; "The Possibilities of Smelting in British Columbia," by Robert R. Hedley, Nelson; "Notes on Southwest Kootenay Ore Bodies," by J. C. Gwillim, B.A. Sc., M.E., Slocan City; "Odd Notes on Mining," by A. H. Holdich, Nelson; "Mining Machinery in the Slocan," by Howard West, A.R.S.M., New Denver.

A SHAREHOLDER of the famous Le Roi mine received a letter from Rossland recently containing the following details regarding that great property: The mine continues to ship about 200 tons of ore per day to the Northport smelter. Recent returns show that the ore is going about 1.54 ounces in gold, 4 per cent. copper, and 3 ounces of silver; its monetary value being itemized as follows: Gold, 1.54 ounces at \$20, or equal to \$30.80; silver, 3 ounces at 57 cents, equal to \$1.71; copper, 4 per cent. (80 lbs.) at 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  cents, equal to \$8.60, or a total of \$41.11. Estimating the product of the mine at 200 tons per day, the gross value of the ore raised daily is \$8,222, or \$246,000 per month, which in turn makes the gross yearly product of Le Roi mine \$2,959,920.

RESERVE—CASSIAR DISTRICT.—Notice is hereby given that the under-mentioned tracts of land are reserved for Government purposes until further notice, viz.: 1. A belt of land, five miles in width, extending back from the shore line of the whole of that portion of Bennett Lake which lies within the province. 2. A belt of land, five miles in width, extending back from the shore line of the whole of that portion of Teslin Lake which lies within the province. 3. A belt of land commencing at a point five miles below Glenora, on the Stikine River; thence up the said river to a point five miles above Tegegraph Creek, and having a width of five miles on each side of the said river.—Geo. B. Martin, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for the Province of British Columbia.

At a meeting of the Peninsula Mining and Development Company, Limited, held at Windsor, Ont., Jan. 15th, all arrangements were made by the company for their expedition to the Klondyke, which will leave Windsor on February 15th, under the management of Major J. E. Johnson, of Leamington, Ont. The following gentlemen will accompany the Major: C. A. Hugheson, Ouevery; J. C. Burk, Blenheim; M. Toll, Ouevery; J. Coyne, Leamington; B. Noble, Leamington; D. Noble, Northridge; William Johnson, Essex; J. Lickman, Essex; J. C. Myres, Cottam; C. McApe, Cottam; J. Imeson, Wheatley; R. F. Leeming, Kingsville; D. Edwards, Coatsworth; F. Dawson, Coatsworth; Thomas Dancey, Coatsworth; W. Toll, George Lawrence, J. B. Lawrence, Blenheim. The expedition will go by Edmonton, and expects to reach the Yukon district in about two months.

AN incident of great interest to the mining district of North Hastings, Ont., took place lately at the Belmont mine, near Marmora, Ont., now being operated by the Cordova Exploration Company, Limited, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, which was the official opening of the company's new stamp mill by Miss Grace Carscallen, daughter of A. W. Carscallen, M.P., who formerly owned and developed the property. The opening took place in the presence of a number of persons who had been invited by the general manager, David G. Kerr, Glasgow, Scotland, late superintendent of one of the mines of the same company in Norway, who came to take charge of the property on the 15th of August last. The mill was erected and the machinery built and put in place by the Wm. Hamilton Mfg. Co., Limited, of Peterboro, and speaks well for this firm, who are so widely and favorably known

throughout the Dominion as mining machinery manufacturers. The construction was under the supervision of Richard Proutt, of Marmora. After the ceremony of opening and inspection was over, and after visiting the Assay Office, which is in charge of George Hardy, chemist, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, a young employee of the Cordova Exploration Company, the party were entertained to a sumptuous repast at the manager's residence.

#### THE ONTARIO RE-FORESTING COMMISSION.

During the recent session of the Ontario Legislature, the Commissioner of Crown Lands laid on the table the report of the Royal Commission appointed in June last to investigate the subject of "restoring and preserving the growth of white pine upon lands in the Province, which have been cleared or partially cleared by lumbering operations or by fire, and which are not adapted for agricultural purposes or for settlement." The commission consisted of E. W. Rathbun, president of the Rathbun Lumber Co.; John Bertram, president of the Collins Inlet Lumber Co.; J. B. McWilliams, superintendent of Forest Rangers; Alex. Kirkwood, of the Ontario Crown Lands Department and Thomas Southworth, Clerk of Forestry.

During the fall and summer the members of the commission visited the townships of Smith, Harvey, Galway and Burleigh, in the county of Peterboro; the territory along the north shore of Lake Nipissing, and down the Vermilion River, in the township of Louise; the country around Thessalon, Algoma Mills and Killarney; the townships of Carlyle and Humboldt, and other points on the north shore of Georgian Bay and in the neighborhood of Georgian Bay. The commissioners also inspected some of the territory on the north shore of Lake Superior and the country along the line of the Port Arthur, Duluth & Western Railway west of Port Arthur, in addition to taking a somewhat extensive trip through the Rainy River country, visiting also portions of the northern parts of Minnesota and Michigan in the United States.

Though the commission has not yet had time to examine minutely enough into local conditions to be able to submit detailed plans for the care and management of the areas visited, yet its investigations have been of a sufficiently technical nature to warrant them in coming to the conclusion that with sufficient areas set aside for the purpose, and with reasonable care and protection of the young and growing timber now upon them, the supply of merchantable timber in the Province of Ontario will be vastly augmented. The commissioners next score lumbermen for the reckless manner in which they have treated our forests. The former apparently limitless forest wealth of the province has led them to be incautious as to the safety of the forests, and the litter they have left lying about has fed the destructive fires that have always followed. These fires have destroyed the original growth, and in many cases paved the way for the springing up of a crop of other varieties more easily propagated. It has been found, however, that where any of the original trees survived the fire and produced seeds, the forest has eventually assumed the characteristics of the growth indigenous to the locality. The widely-entertained theory that the white pine on being cut away is invariably and permanently succeeded by a crop of inferior varieties, was completely disproved by the frequent instances observed in which tracts of flourishing young pine trees are growing up on cut-over land, and the prevalence of the idea can only be accounted for on the ground that fire has in so many cases completely exterminated the pine in all stages of growth. There seems to be no doubt that with the exclusion of fire, and the adoption of more intelligent and provident methods of lumbering, there would be no difficulty in securing a quick and sure production of the varieties of trees desired.

As a rule, after the fires the seeds of the aspen, poplar, birches and cotton woods, which are carried great distances by the wind, soon cover the burned over area, and a vigorous crop of these varieties springs up, and speedily occupies the ground. In most cases, however, a few pines have managed to survive the fire, and where this is the case their seeds are scattered and soon supplant the poplars and other inferior growths. In looking casually over one of these devastated tracts, the first impression conveyed is that poplar and other deciduous trees form the sole vegetation, but a closer inspection will reveal the presence of a large stock of young conifers, which in time will outgrow and drive the poplars into decadence. The commissioners put forward as an example of what results might be obtained, the township of Burleigh, in the county of Peterboro. The cutting of timber began here 50 years ago, the original forest being chiefly of excellent pine. About 33 years ago a colonization road was run through the township, and since then the lumbermen and the fires started by settlers have devastated the forest on the west side of a stream known as Eel's Creek. The frequent fires have burned over a large part of the soil and killed any pines that may have been left by the lumbermen, so that any national reforestation would be a very slow process.