

new company, or say, rather, the reconstruction of the old.

It is a pleasure to draw attention to a late clean-up at the Athabasca mine in the Nelson mining division: 475 tons of ore were milled of an average value of between \$58 and \$59 per ton. The resultant profit was naturally very large, as the cost of operation is light and the percentage of extraction high. It is to be hoped that this was not selected ore, but that the mine can maintain this record without material reduction. If so the Athabasca will be a remarkable dividend paying property.

With the news, long expected, of the collapse of the Golden River Quesnelle concern, which must obviously suggest a dam to the minds of shareholders, comes the much more welcome intelligence of a most satisfactory first season's clean-up by the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Company resulting in a gold brick valued at \$132,275. Before the present season closes it is estimated that more than double this amount of gold will be recovered and as we have had Mr. Hobson's assurance that beyond a relatively inconsiderable sum no further expenditure in equipment is required, shareholders may now expect regular and handsome dividends in the future. The undertaking is the largest of its kind in British Columbia and, we believe, in the world, and Mr. Hobson is entitled to hearty congratulations for having seemingly brought it to so successful an issue.

An impartial observer, Dr. Philpot, of Vancouver, who has recently made known what he saw and heard of Cape Nome during a recent visit, more than corroborates some of the worst previous accounts of the state of affairs in that district. There are, or recently were, 20,000 people on the spot, with only sufficient opportunities for some 5,000 of this number to earn a livelihood, the majority of the remaining 15,000 being either destitute or very near that condition. The Doctor estimates that nearly \$2,000,000 worth of valuable goods lay, when he was at Nome, upon the seashore, with no buyers available for most of the things and large quantities of them left absolutely derelict by ruined owners. Typhoid, smallpox and pneumonia were rife in the camp and murders and acts of violence had been many, though soon after the Doctor arrived, General Randall, with the aid of 175 United States troopers, brought about something like a restoration of law and order. Our informant states that there is daily risk of fire sweeping away the camp, the tents and huts of which—all highly inflammable—are closely crowded for a distance of some ten miles along a narrow strip of foreshore.

East Kootenay has at once taken rank as one of the leading districts in the production of the precious metals. If the output of coal were considered as well it would easily rank as the first district in the province. Certainly it is a very large district and the comparison between it and a small section of country such as that containing the Rossland mines is not altogether a fair one from a territorial point of view. But the district is larger because it has hitherto been barren. People speak of East Kootenay just as they speak of Trail Creek and Slocan although it denotes a territory large enough and of diversified

formation enough to contain them both. During the month of June 130 carloads of ore were shipped from the North Star mine, which means an output of between 2,500 and 3,000 tons at least. During the same month the St. Eugene mine's output was 9,000 tons of ore, resulting in 1,800 tons of concentrates of good grade. Here, then, we have a country which, represented so far by only two large producing mines, already produces over 10,000 tons of metal bearing rock per month, which in value equals, if it does not exceed, the monthly returns of the Trail Creek mines. Were this the only feature of mining development presented in the province of British Columbia this year it would be eminently satisfactory and encouraging. But it is only an instance of the expansion in production which is going on everywhere. The output of silver and lead from East Kootenay will have a marked effect upon the total output of the province in those metals which should, this year, establish a record. The mining industry in British Columbia is growing so fast as already to completely overshadow and dominate every other interest in the province; 1900 will always be remarkable as the year in which the greatest comparative progress has been made.

It seems that there was little foundation for the report that the Britannia copper group on Howe Sound was lately bonded to the British America Corporation, which has probably its hands fully occupied just now with its Trail Creek flotations. The group is, however, likely soon to be secured by very substantial investors, several syndicates being now "in the nibble" for what seems to be a most promising property. The prospects of the Britannia group would probably not suffer, however, were there rather less doubtful "booming" of the venture in certain provincial journals, which from time to time announce quite prematurely that the Britannia group has been sold for a big sum. The inevitable contradiction, or half contradiction, appears shortly afterwards with the result that people begin to question, if the property's prospects be really so bright as painted. "*Au fond*," however, the Britannia group seems to possess very large possibilities, but for the development of the claims included therein big genuine capital investment is needed. Such investors usually pay scant heed to obvious "boom" paragraphs.

It is significant that Miss Faith Fenton, the Yukon correspondent of the *Toronto Globe*, the chief organ of the Dominion Government, frankly declares that the season's rush of Yukon miners to Nome was largely due to overpressure of royalty and other mining taxation in Klondike. Such an opinion, coming from such a political friendly quarter should not prove without weight in influencing the future Yukon policy of the national administration. There is clearly an absolute agreement amongst all who are either in or interested in the Yukon, that there should be a lessening, amongst other things, of the percentage of the gold royalty.

The Seattle press, which is largely responsible for heavy loss of life and money at Cape Nome, through its mendacious booming of the prospects of that terrible country, has lately striven to make much of some new Alaskan placer finds about Glacier Bay beyond Juneau. There does not seem to be great value in the discoveries made at Glacier Bay, though a great rush