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NEWS OF THE MINES.

WORK ON VIRGINIA.

Work on the drifts from the main shaft of the Virginia have been closed down about six weeks, but in the meantime superintendent Macpherson has sunk two new shafts, one immediately south of the original workings and another about 350 feet to the east. In the latter case the lead on the surface has been uncovered, and cross-cuts made, showing a ledge from wall to wall of ten feet. A shaft of about 12 feet has been sunk on this showing, but while the ore is rich looking, the values are low. The other shaft south of the original workings is now down about 40 feet, and 105 tons of ore taken from the ledge here has been sent to the Trail smelter, and there is another carload now ready for shipment on the dump. While the showing is not as good in this shaft as in the one first mentioned, shipping values continue right along. No official announcement has been given out as to the smelter returns from the shipments sent down, but it is estimated that the ore will run in the neighborhood of \$16 or \$17, the values being chiefly gold with some silver, and from one to three per cent copper. The values are found in some instances on the showing last mentioned in very unlikely looking rock which has been found to assay fairly well. This is by no means a new experience in this camp. In one of the levels of a large mine on Red Mountain, some time ago, an official who was showing some visitors through the workings, drew attention to some rock on the side of the drift, and asked the visitors what they thought it was. "Country rock, evidently," said they, "nothing in that, of course." A little further on in the drift, the sides were examined again and it was plainly seen that mineralization had come in. The rock, in fact, was what a tenderfoot would call "very pretty indeed." The visitors were anxious to know what this last ore would run, and were naturally astonished when informed that the highly mineralized "pretty looking" rock would probably run about \$2, while the country rock—and it was real country rock, nothing else,—ran from \$40 to \$60 to the ton. "Yes," said the official, "there is no doubt about the values. I was surprised myself and had the face here chipped off and assayed repeatedly, until there could be no mistake. I know that we have about 12 feet along the side of the drift here which will run all the way from \$30 to \$60. I do not pretend to account for it, but there is no question about the values."

It has long been understood, though not

always believed, that only the man with the blowpipe knows what is in the rock. Over and over again some of the finest looking rock imaginable has been found to contain very disappointing values, and frequently high values are obtained from very inferior looking rock. The mining engineers of the camp say that the only safe method to follow is to assay every foot of the way.

REPUBLIC

Strike on the 600-foot Level Much Better Than Expected.

Mr. Clarence J. McCuaig has returned from a trip to British Columbia and Washington. Speaking of the 200-ton mill which is to be erected at the Republic mine, Mr. McCuaig said that it would not take six months to complete the work, the time depending, however, upon the delivery of the machinery required. He is not certain about the old mill, but whether it closes down awhile or not will make no difference as regards the regular payment of dividends, as a contract has been entered into with the Trail smelter by which a quantity of Republic ore will be treated at that establishment.

Mr. McCuaig states he has a better opinion of the Republic mine than ever. He found after he had inspected the mine that he had underestimated the importance of the big strike on the 600-foot level.

KNOB HILL AND IRONSIDES.

The Knob Hill and Old Ironsides are pushing development, and will be ready to ship daily when the Granby smelter begins work in March. The face of the Knob Hill tunnel was all in ore at last accounts, the values being as good as at any time for the previous hundred feet. A winze is being sunk off the tunnel, and is also all in ore down to a depth of 65 feet. Progress is also being made in developing the Old Ironsides. The work on the 200-foot level is going ahead; drifting south on the foot wall has been continued 418 feet, and about 300 feet south of the main cross-cut. A drift was started to the east to connect with the adjoining property, the Victoria, and connections have been made, thus blocking out ore 200 by 200 by 260 feet, while the No. 2 crosscut sunk from the Old Ironsides into the Victoria ground has been in solid ore for a distance of 480 feet from the foot wall on the Old Ironsides.

WHAT THE LE ROI PEOPLE THINK OF CALIFORNIA.

It is learned that the company owning the Le Roi mine in the Rossland camp, being advised by their experts that the Le Roi vein ran through the California property, made a strong bid for the last mentioned mine. The California people refused to sell out to their big neighbor, who then skipped over the California, and bought the claim following, which is known as the Giant, indicating that not only do they think that Le Roi veins runs through the California, but that it reaches the Giant as well.

CAPE NOME.

Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 20.—Charles Hendry, of this city, has just returned from Cape Nome. He has been in the north for five years. He took his wife with him, and they claim the honor of having the first white child born on American soil in Alaska, a boy born at Kampt two years ago and named William. He is not satisfied with the administration of affairs at Nome and talks very plainly about the matter. He says there is plenty of gold in the country.

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