

THE YEAR'S WORK

The Output of the Rossland Camp Worth \$2,804,758.12.

A BRILLIANT RECORD

The Shipments Amounted to 116,697 Tons.

DOUBLED WITHIN A YEAR

The Camp Entering Upon the Most Promising Period in Its History—The Mining Review for the Entire Year—Statistical Matter Showing in Figures the Development of the Past Twelve Months—Customs Returns From the Kootenay Ports.

The value of the ore produced by the Rossland mines during the year just ended reached the enormous aggregate total of \$2,804,758.12. The shipments were 116,697 tons. For the year ending December 31, 1898, the shipments were 68,000 tons, and the value of the ore mined was \$2,100,000. In a single year the shipments from the mines were almost doubled, while the value of the output increased \$700,000, or 33 per cent.

These simple figures in themselves tell a momentous story of the strides taken by the Rossland mines during the year that has just come to an end. But these figures do not begin to express the enormous advances that have been made in the camp during the twelvemonth that was completed at midnight last evening.

The real progress of the camp has been made, not in tonnage and not in the value of the shipments, but in the development that has taken place during the year, and in the character for equity and permanence which the camp has acquired. At the beginning of the new year last winter the camp was in a critical condition. The effects of the boom were still being felt, and the town had not recovered from the shattering received from that influx of people and money. The smelting and the transportation questions were unsettled. The Le Roi and the Iron Mask were practically the only shippers in the district. The pay-roll of the mines was about 750 men. The outside world, having burned its fingers in blind speculation in wildcat stocks, was doubtful of the character of the town. In fact, doubt and uncertainty were the characteristics of the camp. People had every faith in the place, but their faith remained to be proven.

The year that has just ended has splendidly justified every hope that was felt in Rossland and in Rossland mines. The shipments have almost doubled, and the payroll has increased in like ratio. But best of all has come the certainty that the development of the real Rossland has just commenced, and in the next five years the place will become the greatest mining camp in the northwest, if, indeed, not in the whole of the world.

The year has been remarkable for the immense influx of foreign capital which has absorbed some of the better Rossland properties. First in size comes the British America corporation, with investments of nearly \$5,000,000 in the north belt. Close after it came the purchase by the Gooderham-Blackstock syndicate of the Centre Star for \$2,000,000 cash. The flotation of the Le Roi in London proved to be the financial triumph of the year. The stock was doubly subscribed, and since then it has risen steadily in value until according to the latest reports the shares were quoted at \$8 1/2, or an advance of 75 per cent.

The year has been in a great degree a year of development. The reduction of the smelting rate from \$11 to \$7.50 has given an immense impetus to the mining industry and everywhere the big mines have been preparing for heavy shipments during the coming year. It is expected that the cheap coke furnished by the Crow's Nest Pass line without doubt, enable the smelters to permit of still further cuts until a freight and treatment rate of from \$5 to \$5.50 per ton is possible. Already the Le Roi company at its Northport works is handling ore for a less cost than the first named firm.

With the reduction of the smelting rate to these figures, the shipments for the coming year will be altogether unprecedented. The War Eagle will begin outputting on an extensive scale about the first of next month, and by the time the snow flies next winter the shipping list will be reinforced by the Le Roi and the Centre Star, which will be producing on the basis of about 400 tons each daily. It is certain, therefore, that within nine months the shipments of the camp will aggregate 1,200 tons daily from those three properties alone, not to mention the other shippers which will be on the list by that time.

THE ORE SHIPMENTS.

Ore shipments from the mines of the Rossland camp for the year ending December 31, 1898, were as follows:

Table with columns for mine names and tonnage. Includes Le Roi (66,000), War Eagle (3,500), Iron Mask (2,500), Centre Star (2,500), Gooderham-Blackstock (2,500), Monte Christo (416), Velvet (340), Cliff (340), Giant (114), Sunset No. 2 (6), Deer Park (6).

Shipments of ore were divided as follows:

Table with columns for mine names and tonnage. Includes Le Roi (66,000), Iron Mask (1,000), Velvet (453), Gooderham-Blackstock (66,803).

To the British Columbia Smelting and Refining company's works at Trail, B. C.:

Table with columns for mine names and tonnage. Includes Le Roi (1,000), Centre Star (250).

To the Canadian Smelting Works at Trail, B. C.:

Table with columns for mine names and tonnage. Includes War Eagle (41,072), Centre Star (2,507), Iron Mask (2,500), Monte Christo (416), Sunset No. 2 (32), Giant (114), Deer Park (6).

To the Hall Mines Smelter at Nelson, B. C.:

Table with columns for mine names and tonnage. Includes War Eagle (1,407), Cliff (142).

To the British Columbia Bullion Extracting company's works, at Silica, B. C.:

Table with columns for mine names and tonnage. Includes War Eagle (300).

Grand Total 116,697

Gross Metal Values.

Table with columns for Gold, Silver, Copper. Includes Le Roi (1,056,000), War Eagle (808,523), Centre Star (58,140), Iron Mask (58,000), All others (27,379).

Table of Comparative Values.

Table with columns for Gold, Silver, Copper. Includes Le Roi (1,056,000), War Eagle (808,523), Centre Star (58,140), Iron Mask (58,000), All others (27,379).

Some Official Data.

The data furnished by John Kirkup, gold commissioner and mining recorder for the Trail Record district, shows that for the year just ended was a lively one. During the twelve-month 1017 mineral claims were recorded, and 28 placer locations were filed. Certificates of work to the number of 1,110 were recorded, and in 16 cases money was paid to the governments in lieu of work. The number of certificates of work showed a slight decrease beneath the figures for 1897, when 1,530 records of like nature were filed. The falling off is due not to the increasing number of crown grants, which do away with the necessity of performing assessment work, and also to the fact that holders of worthless claims, taken up on speculation, are no longer working them. During 1898, 130 certificates of improvements were filed, and 197 cases money was paid in lieu of certificates of improvement. That the past year was a very active one in the way of mining transactions is demonstrated by the fact that the bills of sale filed with the recorder numbered 690. The abandonments were 66. Miscellaneous records of all kinds amounted to 21. Free miner's certificates to the number of 2,890 were issued. Company certificates were 127 in number. Substituted certificates amounted to 22. The Rossland and the Nelson office granted 25 water records during the year for the Trail Record district.

The annual assessment work performed on the various properties over the camp represents the distribution of much wealth among the merchants and the business men of the city. Every assessment calls for at least \$100 worth of work, and in many cases fully as much is done by the enthusiastic prospector bent on developing his claim. During 1898 1,110 certificates of work were filed, and according to the sworn statements of the deponents at least \$100 was expended in every case. Thus \$111,000 was evidently spent in assessment work alone, and it would be safe to add at least 50 per cent to those figures in order to get the real value of the prospector's operations. With 50 per cent added, the figures become \$166,500. Nothing that could be produced would serve better to show the confidence the prospectors have in the country for it is certain that they would not be expending nearly \$2,000,000 in the development of the prospect unless there was substantial promise of the claims becoming mines.

Machinery.

The year has seen the installation of the heaviest machinery ever operated in British Columbia. The period has passed when small temporary plants would suffice in opening the mines here, and immense works are being erected, which themselves demonstrate on how active a scale work is to be carried on. In point of size, the new electrical hoist and galloway frame at the War Eagle is the largest. It will cost complete \$80,000. The Mascot has a new electrical compressor costing \$12,000. The Velvet is connecting for a complete new power outfit that will cost \$50,000, and the Umattila group on Sophie mountain is putting in power. All of the above machinery was furnished by James D. Sword of the James Cooper Manufacturing company. Frank McNeill of the Jencks Machine works furnished the Iron Mask with a new 12-drill electrical compressor and has installed the new plant on the Virginia costing \$6,500. The Le Roi and the Centre Star have each put in complete new hoisting plants.

The heavy machinery either erected or contracted for during the past year amounts in value to \$130,000. In addition, repairs and smaller machinery purchased in the camp would make the value of the machinery secured in the past year fully \$200,000.

West Kootenay Power & Light Co.

The construction of the West Kootenay Power & Light company's alternative line is completed from Bonington Falls to the Rossland sub-station, a distance of 31 miles. The right-of-way is cleared throughout to a width of 100 feet, and all brush and other inflammable material within this distance burnt up. All high timber outside of the right-of-way, which would reach the line in case of a windfall, is cut down, so that the line throughout is perfectly free from dangers caused by fires or falling timber. This makes two complete circuits between Bonington and Rossland, arranged in such a manner that either can be used independently of the other. The completion of this line makes a duplicate plant throughout, so that the dangers from possible breakdowns or other accidents are brought down to a minimum. The company has completed its local distribution lines in the vicinity of Rossland, and is at present busily engaged making connections with several properties. Starting three

miles from Trail a branch leaves the main line and connects with the O. P. R. smelter. The apparatus for the running of the smelter electrically is at present being put in place, and it is expected that it will be put in operation early this week. The running of this smelter takes approximately 300 horse power. In anticipation of the cheap power supplied by the company, the smelter has been able to make the present treatment rates.

Connection is also being made with the War Eagle, and it is fully expected that the mine apparatus will be put in operation in the 23rd of January. This includes a 400-horse power motor, used for the operation of the compressor, and a 300-horse power motor, used for operating the hoist. The British Columbia Bullion Extracting company's works at Silica are using power for the operation of the works, and this is one of the longest transmissions so far installed, namely, 35 miles from the generating station at Bonington Falls.

The motor for the running of the Big Three compressor is also being installed, as well as the motor for the running of the Iron Mask compressor.

When the above apparatus is put in operation, it will enable the local mine owners to handle their ores much cheaper than heretofore, and will thus reduce the cost of mining.

The company's new power plant was put in operation about August, of last year.

The past year has established the War Eagle as one of the great mines of the world. Twelve months ago, the property was in a peculiar position. On the surface big bodies of phenomenally high grade ore had been opened, and the War Eagle had been a dividend payer almost from the grass roots. But the extraordinary values had not continued below the 250-foot level, and it was a mystery what the mine in the lower levels would show. That was the position of the War Eagle at the beginning of the year, and although the owners of the property had every faith in the mine, yet the future was necessarily shrouded in doubt.

Early in the New Year, however, the developments around the 300-foot level came crowding hard upon each other, and it seemed that since then every blast that has been fired had added to the value of the mine. As has been expected, the phenomenal values were not met with below the 250-foot level. Instead, the ore bodies gradually widened out until in places the ore was 30 feet wide. As was to be expected values were not so high as had been met in the narrow pay chute on the surface, but the net gain to the mine has been immense. It is demonstrated that the War Eagle is possessed of that great desideratum of mining men, a vast deposit of medium grade ore, which cannot be worked out within a generation. To the Rossland camp the change has been equally important, for it has proved that the ore bodies here are permanent and lasting, but it has shown that with ever widening ore bodies more and more men will be needed to operate the mines. Thus a steady increase in the pay-roll is assured as long as it is mechanically possible to operate the mines here.

The people of the camp have been so accustomed to the strikes made by the War Eagle that it is hard to realize how great the advance has been in the past 12 months. A year ago the mine was employing 90 men, and the shipments were nil. Now on the payroll of the property are 215 men and more are being employed. A year ago, when the development of the Canadian Smelting Works, compelled negotiations to secure War Eagle ore, 75 tons per day was the basis of estimates. Since then the mine has been furnishing more ore than that the railway company could haul away, and the daily average has been nearer 200 tons than any other figure. Now that the mine is being worked on a smaller scale, it is with a minimum of men that it is being worked, and it is probable that with the new hoist in operation the daily output of the mine will be in the neighborhood of 400 tons. With increased tonnage comes decreased treatment rates. A year ago the freight and smelting charge on War Eagle ore was \$11 per ton. Now it is \$7.50 per ton, with a possible rebate of 50 cents per ton when the date of shipment of the shipments only are a month in the year. During the year to come, J. B. Hastings, the superintendent of the mine, expects that still further reductions in the price of smelting will be secured, and it is believed that the charge for freight and treatment will be at least as low as \$5.50, and there is a probability that the rate will be still lower.

The future of the property is bright. The big new shaft, frame and electric compressor plant, constructed at a cost of \$30,000, will be in operation about the first of February. The force at the mine will be steadily increased until, by the middle of the year, the permanent force will number about 400 men. The development in the lower levels of the mine continues excellent, and with the new hoist the mine can be worked to a depth of 2,700 feet.

Centre Star.

With the exception of the immense purchases of the British America corporation, nothing has so strengthened outside confidence in the Rossland-camp as the purchase of the Centre Star by the Gooderham-Blackstock syndicate for \$2,000,000 cash. Coming as it did in the middle of the summer, when ordinarily interest in mining matters is at a low ebb, the sale stimulated such widespread interest in the Rossland camp as had not been felt before in a year. The world began to realize when such cool business men as George Gooderham and T. G. Blackstock invested \$2,000,000 cash in a mine, Rossland must have rare qualities of permanence and remuneration.

The new management had hardly taken over the property before the new superintendent, J. B. Hastings, was authorized to undertake its development on the most liberal terms. The Gooderham-Blackstock syndicate means to open the property thoroughly before placing the stock of the new Centre Star company on the market. Accordingly Mr. Hastings has commenced a new three-compartment shaft, the largest in the west, which is to be sunk within the next six months to the 550-foot level. With the shaft completed to that point, the systematic exploitation of the Centre Star can be commenced. A new electrical hoist will be erected, even better than the new big hoist of the War Eagle. By November 1, the new Centre Star will be employing 300 men, and regular shipment of about 2,000 tons per week will be made. One hundred men are now at work and more are being regularly added.

Waverly Group.

The vein which traverses this property is now the subject of much interest in local and other geological circles. The vein as exposed was cut by the Red Mountain railway grade, and it has always showed up well. Further development of this property is necessary in order to determine the character of the vein. The property is situated on the north flank of Deer Park mountain and is adjacent to the St. Paul. About 2,300 feet of all kinds of development work has been done. The owner has applied for a crown grant.

Sophie mountain.—The development work consists of 600 feet of entire workings. The prospects are reported favorable.

LILY MAY.—Work was recommenced on November 27. The shaft is now 240 feet deep. The old Lily May company is under contract to deliver the property to the English Canadian company on February 1, on the performance of certain conditions which are being carried out.

IRON MASK.—Thirty men are at work on the Iron Mask. During the year the mine has been worked to a depth of 150 feet. The most important find has been in the vein, where a big body of ore has been discovered, and it is expected that the shaft will be sunk to a depth of 200 feet.

MONTE CRISTO.—Up to the time that the Monte Christo was shut down pending completion of the shaft, the mine was producing 100 tons of ore daily. The ore body is about nine feet deep. The shaft is now 240 feet deep.

DEER PARK.—The development of the property was recommenced about three months ago, and since then a new seven-drill compressor has been installed. Twenty-four men are at work, and the shaft is down about 75 feet.

ATLANTIC CREEK.—During the year the shaft was sunk and timbered 275 feet, and 55 feet of shafting was straightened. The crosscutting at the 100-foot level was discontinued. The work is to be resumed with steam power.

SUNSET NO. 2.—Tunneling 205 feet, raising 105 feet, sinking shafts 30 feet, drifting 30 feet.

crosscutting 300 feet. Total work done during the year, 1,388 feet. Average number of employees, 215 men.

COMMUNER.—The total development of the property for the year amounted to 600 feet of tunneling and 25 feet of shafts and winzes. The new electrical power plant will be started this week. The shaft is being run vertically, and is now down more than 300 feet.

VIRGINIA.—The development on the Virginia on December 1, aggregated 400 feet of shafting, 150 feet of drift, and 25 feet of shafting vertically, and is now down more than 35 feet wide. Twenty-four men are at work.

GOOD FRIDAY.—Tunneling, to the extent of 806 feet, drifting 125 feet, and 55 feet, was done during the year. Forty men were employed.

VELVET.—About 30 men are at work, and a new compressor plant will soon be installed. Besides work in the shaft a new shaft has been started.

IRONSIDE.—Total work done since the company started work, shafting 75 feet, tunneling 1,422 feet, drifting 210 feet.

HOMESTEAK.—Sinking since November 20, when work was recommenced under new management, 65 feet.

GREEN MOUNTAIN.—The new power plant is in operation. Eighty men are at work. The shaft is down 85 feet.

SOUTHERN BELLE.—About 100 feet of winzes and 200 feet of drifting has been conducted in the year.

LE ROI.—Sinking 160 feet; drifting and tunneling, 2,500 feet; raises and winzes, 280 feet.

COLUMBIA-KOOTENAY.—Tunneling and drifting, 300 feet; raising and sinking, 50 feet.

NICKEL PLATE.—Tunneling and drifting, 2,400 feet; raises and winzes, 60 feet.

DEER PARK.—Shaft sunk 112 feet to a depth of 303 feet, drifting 300 feet.

GREAT WESTERN.—Sinking, 150 feet; tunneling, 300 feet; raising and sinking, 50 feet.

NOVELTY.—Shafting 65 feet, tunneling 60 feet. Six men employed.

SANTA ROSA.—Crosscutting and drifting 440 feet, tunneling 50 feet.

JOSIE.—Tunneling and crosscutting, 1,500 feet; raises and winzes, 50 feet.

NO. 1.—Shafts, 200 feet; tunneling and crosscutting, 100 feet.

ALBERTA.—Twenty feet of work done during the year.

FLORENCE.—About 20 feet of crosscutting was done during the year.

RED MOUNTAIN-IDA MAY.—The shaft was sunk 14 feet.

EAST ST. LOUIS.—The shaft was sunk 12 feet.

ROYAL GEORGE.—The shaft was sunk 22 feet.

EVENING STAR.—Drifting, 50 feet.

ABE L. POLK.—Sinking 115 feet.

GRAND PRIZE.—Sinking 75 feet.

WARRIOR.—Sinking and drifting 50 feet.

WAR EAGLE.—Total work, 4,000 feet.

COXEY.—Tunnel run 400 feet.

GERTRUDE.—Tunnel and shafts, 225 feet.

JUMBO.—Tunnel run 500 feet.

ABBOTSFORD.—Tunnel run 150 feet.

MARSCOT FR.—Shaft sunk 30 feet.

The Fay Roll.

Exactly 1,000 men are employed in 39 of the more important properties over the camp. Other properties will employ about 200 men more, which will make the mining pay roll of the year about \$1,400,000 per year. The increase in the roll in the past year has been nearly 100 per cent.

The pay roll of some of the more important mines is as follows:

Table with columns for mine names and pay roll. Includes Le Roi (450), War Eagle (315), Columbia-Koot. (50), Nickel Plate (40), Great Western (35), No. 1 (20), Sunset No. 2 (25), Deer Park (15), Home Stake (15), Commander (13), White Bear (13), Gertrude (10), Jumbo (10), Coxey (10), Green Mountain (8), Iron Horse (22), Evening Star (22), Velvet (26), Grand Prize (7), Novelties (7), Abbotsford (7), Wallingford (7).

ROSSLANDERS WIN.

After a Hard Contest They Defeated Victoria Club at Hockey.

About 450 people witnessed the first hockey match of the season last night between the Victoria and Rosslanders at the new skating rink. The game was a hard, fast and well contested one and resulted in a victory for the Rosslanders by three goals to two. It being an initial game, and as yet comparatively little had been done, accounts for the very evident lack of confidence in the players on both teams.

But before the next match good hard practice will have been indulged in and the people who would like to see the best of the Victoria and the Rosslanders put up first class hockey. It was 8:40 before the game was called, and right here it might be well to remind the hockey men that the delay appeared unwarranted.

The teams lined up as follows: Rosslanders: McCreey goal, Jennings point, Layley forward, Elwood forward. Victoria: O'Brien (Capt.) goal, Merritt point, Warren (Capt.) center, Mcintosh right wing, Reicher left wing, Harris right wing, Harris left wing, Harris right wing, Harris left wing.

Mr. Conson of the Bank of Toronto, was the puck was faced by Warren and Davis, Ray shot the first goal for the Rosslanders. After 12 minutes furious play, Davis scored the second goal for them, and three minutes later did the trick again.

Becher looked hurt, but in a short time pluckily reappeared, and six minutes later scored the first goal for the Victoria, and in less than a minute Harris made it two. Victoria soon went up and the remainder of the first half was distinguished by stubborn, hard play on the part of both teams. Score, Rosslanders 3, Victoria 2.

In the second half honors were even, neither side scoring. Harris, in his opinion, played a capital hockey. Warren thought unwell played a capital hockey. Harris, in his opinion, played a capital hockey. Warren thought unwell played a capital hockey.

THEY MUST BEHAVE WELL

General Otis' Proclamation to the Filipinos Kept Secret.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 31.—Upon full consideration the authorities here have decided to adhere to their original intention and withhold from publication the proclamation to be addressed to the Filipinos by General Otis, the military commander of the islands, until the document has been given publicity at Manila. The proclamation is very long, giving in great detail into the conditions in the islands, and outlining the strong intimation conveyed that the whole future happiness and welfare of the islands depends on their conduct now.

TREMENDOUS GAS EXPLOSION.

Ohio & Indiana Gas Compressor Station Completely Destroyed.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 31.—A special to the News from Portland, Ind., says: With a roar, which was heard 15 miles away, followed by a flash of fire which reached a height of five feet and lighted the entire country for miles around, a 12-compressor gas station, the key-note of the entire structure, was in flames and the fire raged until the building was destroyed.

The pumping station comprised the gas works, which through the lines to Lima, Piqua, Dayton and a number of other Ohio towns and cities as well as a number of Indiana towns, was created at a heavy expense, being equipped with powerful batteries of boilers and immense engines and compressors. It was one of the most complete of its kind in existence.

Three years ago the same station was wrecked by an explosion of natural gas, when two men were killed and the loss was close to \$100,000.

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