

JULY DIVIDENDS.

CARIBOO Mining & Smelting Co., Camp McKinney, July 2nd, 2 cents per share, \$16,000. This is the nineteenth dividend paid by this Company and the second this year, a like amount having been paid to shareholders in May. The property has now, therefore, yielded \$220,965 in profits since 1894, or at the present price of shares about one-half of the capital invested. With the additional machinery that has lately been installed, yet more satisfactory results may be anticipated.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions which may be expressed in this column. No notice will be taken of communications unless accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.

THE DUNCAN MINES, LTD., AND THE QUEEN BESS.

TO THE EDITOR:—In your July issue a list is given of those British Columbian Mining Companies brought out in London during the past year, together with the names of those Companies under whose auspices they were formed.

In this list I notice an inaccuracy which I shall be glad if you will correct in your next number. I allude to the statement that the Queen Bess Proprietary Company, Ltd., was floated by the Duncan Mines, Ltd. As, however, that Company had but a secondary position in connection with the matter in question, this statement, being only partially true, is misleading.

The option on the Queen Bess Mine was obtained by me, solely on behalf of the Dominion Mining Development & Agency Co., Ltd. It was only subsequently, and purely as a matter of courtesy (in return for the past services of their Captain Duncan), that my Company agreed to allow the Duncan Mines, Ltd., to participate in the transaction; and, while it is true that the latter Company are equally interested with ourselves in other respects, the whole of the arrangements in the first instance were made by the Dominion Mining Development & Agency Co., Ltd., who are, therefore, responsible for the flotation.

Further, as it has been stated elsewhere that Mr. Drummond and Captain Duncan are respectively Managing Director and Engineer for the Queen Bess Proprietary Co., Ltd., I take this opportunity of informing you that neither the one nor the other has any official connection whatsoever with either the Queen Bess Proprietary Co., Ltd., or the Dominion Mining Co., Ltd., unless, it may be, as any ordinary shareholder.

Yours very truly,

C. KINGSLEY MILBOURNE,

Managing Director for the Dominion Mining Development & Agency Co., Ltd., and the Queen Bess Proprietary Co., Ltd.

MORE WILD CATS.

TO THE EDITOR:—In the *Financial Guide*—a journal for investors? (to avoid)—of the 1st of June, is an extended notice of the British Columbian Mineral Properties, Ltd., *inter alia* the following occurs:

"An opportunity has presented itself of acquiring a third property, situated in the Nelson Mining Division, which would appear to be of the greatest promise and value. It has been reported upon by Mr. P. R. Ritchie, M.E., and by Colonel E. S. Topping, M.E., the locator of the now world-renowned Le Roi Mine." Again "Mr. P. R. Ritchie, the Consulting Engineer to the Klondike and North West Territories Exploration Company, Ltd., left London in the early part of this year for British Columbia, with a view to forming and thoroughly equipping an expedition to explore the celebrated Klondike and Yukon Gold Fields." In another part of the notice the following is found: "Colonel Topping, who has a reputation second to none in British Columbia as a shrewd and clever Mining Engineer."

It would be interesting to know if the P. R. Ritchie here referred to as an M.E., is the same person who until recently was a Provision Merchant in Vancouver. The investing public might also like to hear from the *Financial Guide* whether Colonel Topping, M.E., is the person of that name who recently supplied the Columbia River steamers with cord wood and who kept a boarding house and hotel at Trail.

For my part I should like to ask both these gentlemen whether they know the first thing about a mine and whether either of them ever had five minutes' training as a miner, much less as a Mining Engineer.

Colonel Topping was not the locator of the Le Roi. The claim was given to him by a French-Canadian on condition that he (Topping) would pay the recording fee.

TRAPPER.

Vancouver, B.C., July 1st.

A LONDON BUREAU OF MINES.

TO THE EDITOR:—I notice in your last issue, amongst other interesting matters, a suggestion that "a Bureau of Mining Information in London (England) should be established in place of the present (useless) Agent-General's Office." This would undoubtedly prove, in competent hands, a source of the greatest good to this Province. In fact I doubt if any other move could be suggested of equal benefit, or likely to produce such direct results in inducing investment in the great mineral resources of British Columbia—carried out on the lines of the similar bureau recently established for a like purpose by the Government of Victoria (Australia). As you suggest, an active, well informed Director could divert attention in many ways to the advantages we offer investors, and to that end one point should be looked after, namely, that the appointee should be a Canadian and a thoroughly competent man of business, with a sound personal knowledge of the mines, methods and all pertaining thereto in British Columbia, able to answer all questions intelligently and furnish advice of value when required. He should also be able to lecture on the subject occasionally, as opportunity affords, in a manner calculated to reach the average audience and educate those desirable as "new chums" with means. Trusting this subject may be thoroughly agitated in your columns to a definite end.

W. THOS. NEWMAN.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. N. (St. John's, Nfld). You can safely rely upon the accuracy of the reports of our Fairview correspondent "Ricardo." He will be glad to learn that you appreciate his articles in the MINING RECORD.

L. A. (Brighton, Eng). Yes; quite correct so far as we can learn; but, of course, it has not yet been proved what the "strike" means. The Galena is far too heavily capitalized and shareholders prospects will never be very brilliant we fear.

T. E. B. (Toronto). War Eagle shares are a safe, but possibly not an extraordinarily remunerative buy at the price now quoted. At the present price the mine is valued higher than the Le Roi.

W. A. (Toronto, Ont.) We refer you to A. W. More & Co., Victoria.

Enquired (Norwood). Write to the Minister of Mines and you will get what you want.

V. (Vancouver). The figures are very misleading. We consider it better to not publish your letter. Mr. Pellew-Harvey has, as no doubt you have since learned, severed his connection with the concern.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

A compressor plant is being placed in position on the Old Ironsides, a promising camp in Greenwood camp, Boundary Creek. A like plant is also likely to be shortly ordered for the Paris and Lincoln claims, in White's camp, on which extensive development work is now in progress.

The 40-stamp mill ordered for the Ymir mine in the Nelson Division, arrived at its destination this month, and will, ere long, be in running order. The Ymir is undoubtedly an exceedingly promising property, and has been systematically developed to the extent of some 3,000 feet of workings.

Messrs. Macfarlane & Co., of Vancouver, are extending their business very largely throughout the Province, and are finding an excellent market for assay and mine supplies not only on the coast but in the Kootenays. The firm recently supplied a large assay outfit to the Van Anda Mining Company of Texada Island, and a like complete equipment which has been sent up to Dawson City. The Bank of North America also bought from Messrs. MacFarlane & Co., the other day, two assay outfits, including scales and weights for weighing Klondike gold dust and bullion. These outfits were shipped by different steamers, to make as sure as possible the arrival of one outfit at its destination.