

Next morning, we were awakened by sirens and whistles of all sorts, which sounded doubly discordant at the hour of 6 a.m. We roused ourselves and, after breakfast, went to Van Anda again, and went over the smelter, which is a matting plant of 50 tons capacity, and which we found running full blast. It is very neatly constructed and compact, and, so far, is giving very good satisfaction. It is taxed to its full capacity to treat the ores which are being brought in, both from the Island and other coast properties. At present, in running the ores from Van Anda properties, they are only able to treat 35 tons of actual ore as they are highly siliceous, and require considerable flux. The iron ore used for this purpose is being supplied from the Raven mine, which the company have acquired an interest in and are now working. The matte is about 75 to 80 per cent. copper.

We were informed by Mr. Treat that they were receiving considerable ores from various points on the Coast and Vancouver Island besides those from Marble Bay, and their own properties—notably, from Douglas Pine, on Thurlow Island; Mount Sicker, on Vancouver Island; and the Shamrock, on Loughboro' Inlet.

There can be no doubt that this smelter will be the means of opening up many valuable properties, and already some prospectors are taking advantage of it to start work on veins which are at present low grade having values of from \$10 to \$12 in copper and gold.

The low rate of treatment, and the great facilities of reaching the smelter from coast points, will enable them, during development stages, to work their mines at a small profit. Others will soon follow their lead, and with these properties more or less developed, and showing a profit on work done, there will be in the future no difficulty in obtaining capital for plant, etc.

We went from here to the Little Billy, also the property of the Van Anda Company. It is being worked by shaft, and tunnel, and is distant about a quarter of a mile south from the smelter. The vein is about 12 feet wide, the ore is copper pyrite, with some molybdenite, the gangue is calcite and quartz. It is a promising looking property, with a fair percentage of ore with good values.

Our time was limited, and we were unable to visit other properties on the Island, as we hoped to have done. The upper level on the Cornell had caved in, and work had only lately been resumed; on the lower some very good looking ore was being brought out.

On the Security, work was commenced about six months ago, a well defined vein being struck, on which considerable drifting has been done, and the vein traced for over 700 feet; it is about 12 feet in width. The ore is copper pyrites, with very high gold values, a considerable amount of free gold shows through the vein matter.

A new strike was made, while we were on the Island, just at the rear of the Company's store. It is a felsic dyke of from 12 to 15 feet in width, well mineralized with copper pyrites, and carbonates. Work was started at once.

The Company also have a saw mill working at the Bay, running night and day; they employ in all about 250 men. We saw no Chinamen around the mines, nor in any of the workings of same, though we encountered a few in the woods getting out cordwood, and in some of the houses cooking.

Rain was falling at 8 a. m. and, as it looked like bad weather, we were not altogether sorry to get off, on the Comox, homeward bound at 9 a. m.

Looking back from the steamer, as she left the wharf, the scene was one of great activity; steamers and a scow, laden with ore, were lying in the bay, the smelter and sawmill running full blast, and every now and then could be heard the gong from one or other of the mines, calling for hoist.

An option has just been taken on one-half interest in the Dexter mines, near the Raven, and owned by the Vancouver syndicate, of which Colonel Dudley, the American Consul, is president, and it is expected the work will shortly be resumed on this property, it is a copper mine on which already considerable work has been done with good results, but needs the installation of plant and some further work.

Several other mining companies, we are informed, intend shortly to resume work, and the prospects are that very shortly the capacity of the smelter will have to be increased by the addition of another furnace.

A large amount of work has been done on both town sites which adjoin, also a considerable number of buildings have been put up, and many more are in course of erection.

C. R. GRAVES

### ATTRACTING ATTENTION.

We have numerous enquiries from all parts, asking for information relative to British Columbia, as a field for investment and settlement. Now, we beg to say, to anyone with moderate capital, good muscle and common sense, that we have a territory large enough and rich enough to manufacture millionaires from the right stuff. Men who can use their brains, as also their hands, are the ones that are wanted, and who have sufficient cash and discrimination to grasp opportunities, which, in a mineral country at the initial stage, are always to be met with to the advantage of all concerned.

During the early period of the Kootenay development, we may say, all the spoils accrued to alien "Americans," who are now living in luxury through out California, as also abroad—the result of opening up prospects, from the Boundary to the Slocan. We do not begrudge them the reward of their pluck; we are not built that way. If we have an extra long nose, we don't purpose to cut it off to spite our face, not at all, notwithstanding any government action to the contrary. Come on all, and every one, British by preference, Anglo-Saxon anyhow, and you may still reap rich rewards from your labors. We have men, practical miners, who would give the lion's share to anyone, who would assist them to develop their properties, with muscle and money, results in connection with which would be incalculable.

We do not mean to infer, that anyone should blindly catch hold of the first thing that offers. Those who come here with the intention of speculating, should give themselves time to become familiarized with the matter and people, then their future is assured.

It is not such a far cry from London to the Klondike now; twelve months has worked wonders, and the difficulties of the way have been smoothed, and one can travel in luxury from London to Dawson during the season. The telegraph also brings us in close touch with developments in the Yukon.

The most important financial papers have their representatives there, and so impressed are they with the future of the diggings, that they invariably acquire large interests for themselves or friends.