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British Columbia.

NANAIMO.

Nanaimo, April 30.—The shipments of coal to foreign ports for the past month show a falling off in the total, although the New Vancouver Coal Company shipped 22,792 tons, being about 8,500 tons over the previous month. Wellington only sent 10,127 tons, being about half the amount for March, and Union contributed the usual average of 17,664, making a total of 50,583 tons. At present things look a little brighter for the city, and there is every indication that the mines will work fairly well during the summer.

It is estimated that the prizes to be given at the Queen's Birthday celebration will reach about $2,500.

The vital statistics for the past month were. Births, 15; marriages, 3; deaths, 2.

A mass meeting of miners will be held in the opera house on Saturday, when matters concerning the secretary will be discussed. It is reported Mr. R. Smith intends to resign.

William Jackson had his leg broken in the Wellington mines on Wednesday.

The bark Oregon arrived from Frisco yesterday. Captan Parker reports that a seaman named Richard Walsh fell from the uper top gallant yard, struck the anchor and then disappeared beneath the waves, and the body could not be recovered. The captain says death must have come before the body plunged into the water.

Nanaimo, May 2.—The Conservatives here appear to be in a quandery, judging by an editorial in the Free Press, as to what steps must be taken to secure the nomination of Mr. A. Haslam in lieu of Mr. J. Haggart. No one here knows what great thing Mr. Haslam has accomplished since he has been representing this constituency, but no doubt he will endeavor to tell his constituents when he next appears on a public platform.

The mass meeting of miners which was to have taken place to-day has been further postponed, and the company have decided to work No. 5 shaft for the present month.

The customs returns for the past month amounted to $3,986, and the imports to $16,676. Inland revenue, $1,130.

Mr. S. Gough has resigned the position of honorary organist of the Wallace street Methodist church.

About $500 will be devoted to the bicycle races on the 24th, and there will also be several good prizes for ladies.

CHILLIWACK.

Chilliwack Progress.

A meeting of the committee of the Provincial Fruit Growers' Exchange will be held in the court house, Chilliwack, on Saturday next, May 2, immediately after the arrival of the Transfer from Westminster, and a general meeting of the said association will take place the same evening at 8 o'clock.

The organization of the Eden Bank Creamery Company, Limited Liability, is rapidly progressing. Messrs. A. C. Wells, Shelton Knight, Wm. Branchflower, C. T. Higginson and Mrs. Jane Evans are the trustees under the certificate of incorporation. The above being all largely engaged in dairying and having substantial means, are in a position to carry such an organization to a successful issue. Mr. J. Howe Lent is secretary protem, and has been assiduous in carrying out his responsible duties.

A farewell meeting was held in St. Andrew's church, Enderby, on Monday night to bid good-bye to Rev. J. K. Wright, B.D., who for seven years has labored as Presbyterian missionary at Spallumcheen, and who has been called to Cook's church, Chilliwack. During the evening addresses were read, accompanied by a well-filled purse, as a slight token of regard for Mr. and Mrs. Wright.

The contractors for the construction of the Matsqui dyke are pushing on work very vigorously with the object of completing the dyke before the Fraser rises to the usual summer level. The large staff of men employed on the works have been kept at it early and late to avoid the delay that would necessarily ensue should they be overtaken by high water before the dyke is well advanced towards completion.

WELLINGTON.

Wellington Enterprise.

For the first time in a couple of years both the mines and the machine shops were closed Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. James Haggart has resigned his position as boss at No. 6 in order to contest this constituency at the Dominion elections. The resignation has been accepted, to go into effect on the 1st of May.

It is learned that a strong English syndicate is at present negotiating for the purchase of all the ranches on Lasquetti island and taking over the balance of the government land on the island. Already several ranches have been purchased for spot cash. It is, we hear, the intention of the purchasers to carry on sheep raising on a large scale.

KAMLOOPS.

Inland Sentinel.

Mr. James Blair will leave to-morrow for Adams lake country with an outfit for three prospectors. They intend to examine thoroughly that section of the country for minerals.

Prospectors are getting pretty numerous around Glenemma. There were about a dozen last week looking for gold through the district. There seems to be quite a gold fever raging this spring. Messrs. T. Noble, Wm. Green and Magee, from Salmon Arm, passed through on a prospecting tour, expecting to go as far as the Thompson river before they return.

GOLDEN.

Golden Era.

Capt. Armstrang has commenced to bring his ore from the Vermont creek silver mine down the river per steamer Duchess to Golden, and will ship it from here to one of the smelters.

Mr. Dollinadge arrived at the beginning of the week from Toronto. He is interested in some mining properties in this neighborhood and went to Ottertail on Thursday to examine some galena claims.

He also reports that Mr. Townsend is preparing to commence active work on the International gold mine. Mr. Askwith is also making the same preparations for the Bobby Burns mine in the same district.

The steamer Duchess made her first trip of the season on Tuesday last, though the water was low for the time of the year. They had a very large amount of freight, including machinery for the Wild Horse hydraulic mines.

I am requested to state that as there has been in circulation in the neighborhood some reports relative to Mr. Bostock's past career, which are calculated to be very hurtful to his political campaign—all such reports are entirely unfounded and absolutely incorrect.

NEW DENVER.

The Ledge.

Work commenced last week on the Congo and Little Daisy, two claims on Eight Mile creek.

W. E. Terrill is driving a tunnel on a claim close to the railway track and about a mile below Three Forks.

In New Denver during April more than a quarter of a million dollars worth of mining claims were bonded. Most of the properties are in the dry ore belt at the foot of Slocan lake.

Plunkett & Dumbar bonded the Bondholder, Pine Log, Rosebud and Lone Star for $40,000, paying $500 down. These claims are owned by Charles Martin, Dan McCuaig, John McFarlane and John Pepham. One assessment has been done on these properties. They are situated on Ten Mile and Springer creek slopes, about six mils from Slocan lake.

Last week was a great time in New Denver for the bonding of claims. Plunkett & Dunbar, of Vancouver, did a wholesale business in that line. Dunbar bonded most of the Two Friends group for $50,000. The Oxberry group went to R. Marpole for a $25,000 option. The Crusader group, owned by Clay, Faas and Heckman, was bonded for $50,000. Particulars of the bonding of other claims are given elsewhere. The amount of cash paid own was small, most of the next payments falling due in July, October, next April and May.

When the finishing touches are completed at the Slocan Star concentrator power will be turned on and the mill commence to grind. This will probably occur next week. Another tunnel, which makes the fifth at this great mine, was commenced last Thursday. It will tap the ore at a depth of 660 feet, and will have to be run 800 feet before the ledge is reached. Very little dead work has been done on the property for some time, but this summer a vast amount of development will be commenced and completed. A contract was recently made for the shipment of twelve thousand tons of ore. The C. P. R. will carry eight thousand tons of it and the K. & S. the balance. The ore goes to Omaha, and it will take eight months to complete the contract, which means a daily output of fifty tons.

On the first day of last November W. K. Richmond and Max Heckmann, who were grub staked by Hiram Clever and Charles Faas, located what is known as the Alpine group. The group consists of four claims, the Berne, Swiss, Highland Chief and Kootenay Pass. The claims are on an unnamed creek, about seven miles from the arm of Kootenay lake and about sixteen miles from Slocan lake. The ledge matter is from 18 to 56 inches, and assays showed 26 oz. in free milling gold, with about 2 oz. in silver. Two of these claims, the Highland Chief and the Swiss, were bonded last week to R. Marpole for $35,000; $400 in cash, $2,600 on the 15th of July; $10,000 October 1st, and the balance in a year. If it had been possible to see the claims a greater cash deposit would have been made. At present it is impossible to reach them owing to the snow.

NELSON.

B. C. Mining Journal.

Nelson is disturbed last week by the report of the most daring robbery, it is probable, that has ever been committed in British Columbia. Large quantities of goods, principally groceries, were taken from the Hudson's Bay Company's store and from Senator Reid's store. Well grounded suspicion directed to James Frank Williams, the blacksmith. Mr. McNabb procured a search warrant and located the booty in Williams' premises. A warrant for his arrest soon followed, and Williams was placed in jail for safe keeping on Saturday last. Williams, who came from eastern Washington nearly three years ago, and passed up the Cariboo road under the assumed name of Murphy, appeared on Monday before Messrs. Johnson and Barlow. Hams, 12 sacks flour, beans, bacon, tobacco, sugar, salt, tea, coffee, bran and shorts (no oatmeal), filling two of the cellars, were in as evidence. The magistrates, after a careful examination of witnesses, gave Williams the statutory privilege of making a statement. He confessed to having stolen most of the articles mentioned in the indictment against him, and he also stated that there were many things hidden that had not yet been found. He was committed to be tried at the next court of competent jurisdiction.

Col. Underwood's dredge has been removed above the bridge and is being put rapidly in a condition to begin early operation. In about two weeks the machinery will be all in.

Mr. Norton, of the San Juan, has arrived. Mr. Tuttle, of Tacoma, accompanied Mr. Norton. Mr. Tuttle has taken a large interest in the mine. It is expected in a few weeks valuable developments will be made.

A scow loaded with pipe was taken from here to Messrs. Fry and Johnston's hydraulic diggings, nine miles down the Fraser.

Chinese with rockers are washing gold near the mouth of Quesnelle river, and are reported to be making $4 a day.

LILLOOET.

B. C. Mining Journal.

There is a good deal of comment on the rich quartz discovery made on the mountain above and on the left hand side of Cayoosh creek. A ledge about eight feet in width, extending through several locations, was discovered last week by two prospectors. Rich float would be brought on this spring, and with a large head of water this big property might be made to pay. The matter is still under consideration, but there is no likelihood of anything being done this season.

The $3,000 apportioned to the furtherance of a road from Lytton to Lillooet is regarded as better than no appropriation, but will not do much towards opening up a road the distance that it must be built to give Lillooet an outlet this way to the railway.

The small dredger is still working successfully on Mormons bar, where it has been in operation some weeks. The large dredger is at anchor near this bar waiting for a rise in the river so that it will be able to get up the river to its point of destination near Lillooet. This plant is very complete, and should assist largely in solving the problem of successful river dredging.

ASHCROFT.

B. C. Mining Journal.

Cataline's pack train of 36 animals is loading for the Peace river country. After this he packs from Quesnelle up. The distance packed from Ashcroft to his destination is about 420 miles.

We were shown some rock the other day by William Keatley, from a ledge recently located on Cayoosh creek, Lillooet. It is well studded with gold, and is said to be not richer than any piece taken at random across this eight foot ledge. If anything like described it is a valuable property.

The outlook at present would indicate that much freight will be taken into Lillooet section during the summer and autumn. It is expected that machinery for the Lilloet quartz mines will be shipped at no distant date.

It is reported that a contract for hauling the Cariboo Gold Fields company's pipe has been let to Contractor Bambridge, and that 250 draft horses will be sent in to do the work. The price paid is not reported, nor is the news of the contract being let as yet confirmed. It is thought, however, by those best informed to be true.

GRAND FINALE OF THE MELODRAMATIC FARCE.

The Bold, Bad Baronet—Ha! I have killed the che-ild with my own hand! Now to fasten the guilt upon Laurier, and make the public believe that is his "obstruction" dag-gar! Ha, ha!

[Exit to work out this profound and subtle idea.]

QUESNELLE.

B. C. Mining Journal.

The usual quietness of the borough was disturbed last week by the report of the most daring robbery, it is probable, that has ever been committed in British Columbia. Large quantities of goods, principally groceries, were taken from the Hudson's Bay Company's store and from Senator Reid's store. Well grounded suspicion directed to James Frank Williams, the blacksmith. Mr. McNabb procured a search warrant and located the booty in Williams' premises. A warrant for his arrest soon followed, and Williams was placed in jail for safe keeping on Saturday last. Williams, who came from eastern Washington nearly three years ago, and passed up the Cariboo road under the assumed name of Murphy, appeared on Monday before Messrs. Johnson and Barlow. Hams, 12 sacks flour, beans, bacon, tobacco, sugar, salt, tea, coffee, bran and shorts (no oatmeal), filling two of the cellars, were in as evidence. The magistrates, after a careful examination of witnesses, gave Williams the statutory privilege of making a statement. He confessed to having stolen most of the articles mentioned in the indictment against him, and he also stated that there were many things hidden that had not yet been found. He was committed to be tried at the next court of competent jurisdiction.

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ROYAL Baking Powder *has been awarded highest honors at every world's fair where exhibited.*

ENLIGHTENING THE LONDONERS.

British Columbia Must Not be Omitted From the List.

The following letter appeared in a recent issue of the London Times:

Sir: In an article upon Herr Schmeisser's report on the gold deposits of Western Australia, published in to-day's issue of the Times, you say: "Nor is Western Australia the only British possession recently added to the gold producing districts of the world. The value of the Indian gold mines, which was not much thought of five years ago, has been fully recognized now," etc. May I permitted to suggest that in this connection the name of British Columbia might have been mentioned? It is a British possession, large amounts of gold have been exported from it, and there are many old miners who believe that it will prove to be the richest mineral country in the world. Since the first rush of Californian explorers in 1859, over $55,000,000—(£11,000,000)—have been taken out of the country, without reckoning the gold dust and nuggets exported by the host of Chinamen who are constantly at surface work, but who do not report their results. The greater part of this was obtained by surface washing, for until the several ranges of the Rocky mountains had been traversed by the Canadian Pacific railway and the Columbia river, with its gold and silver bearing neighborhood served by branch lines and steamboats, it was impossible, of course, to transport the heavy machinery necessary in some kinds of mining to any distance through such mountainous country. All this has been changed and hydraulic machinery, dredgers, etc., are going into the Cariboo country to the north, while smelters and stamp-mills have been erected in some places—to be followed by many more plants—in the south. Cariboo is not, of course, a recent addition to the gold-producing districts of the world, but its inaccessibility for machinery until the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway places it more or less in the same category with other parts of the province, and the millions taken out of it by scratching the gravel along the streams is only an indication of the wealth that will be obtained from hydraulic work, deep diggings, etc. The first results obtained from enterprises which have recently been started show that the mass of the gold has lain safely away from the operations of the surface workers. The Kootenay district, which has already become famous in the west, has for many years been known to the Hudson's Bay Company's officials as a gold-bearing district, but until recently it was inaccessible to others than Indians and trappers. The Alberni district on Vancouver Island has practically been exploited only during the last summer, although ocean-going ships can proceed up Barclay Sound to the foot of the mines, a matter of considerable importance. Queen Charlotte Islands, a little north of Vancouver, have long been known to possess the precious metals, and several explorers have lost their lives by disregarding the refusal of the Indians to have their island explored. That is all changed now, and the papers recently contained accounts of valuable discoveries there. At Cassiar, in the far north, the gold mines have been in successful working for some time, and as you, sir, are aware, there is even now a small jangle between the Canadian and United States authorities as to the boundaries of Alaska, a disagreement which derives any life from the fact of the location of the international boundary line determining the ownership of a recently discovered gold-field. I have seen some of the gold brought down the coast, and have never seen any larger or better gold. Does it not, therefore, seem that in enumerating the gold fields within British territory much of which in the southern part of British Columbia has already been secured by Americans from the neighboring silver states—a place on the list should be found for British Columbia, whose riches in precious metals is supplemented by the advantage of the ore, as well as the pure gold, being procurable usually at a much less cost than in any other part of the world?

Yours obediently,

MOLYNEUX ST. JOHN.

Sports Club, London, April 4th.

NO CINNABAR MINES.

Truth Discovered by Visitors to the Tatla Lake Region.

A prospecting party, which left Ashcroft on March 23rd for the Chilcoten country on a prospecting trip in the neighborhood of the Stanley Smith cinnabar mine, returned on Thursday. Mr. Hayward said to the Journal, that in the judgment of his party there is nothing so far known of that district to justify the wild rush that has been made there by several parties from the Chilcoten side and also from the Bute Inlet side of the range. The country is still covered in many places with snow and seems to be badly broken up in formation. His party brought in a couple of sacks of ore which he thinks may show some value in gold, but is not very sanguine. They made several locations, and their return to that section will depend on the assay value of the samples brought down. Of cinnabar they saw nothing, and do not think there is any in that section. It is a country of magnificent distances, as they would be advised that it was ten miles to a certain place and ride all day and not reach it. Mr. Hayward thinks that other sections passed through before reaching the Tatla lake region looks much more favorable for prospecting than does the so-called cinnabar region described by the notes of the drowned prospector, Stanley Smith. The slides on the mountains in this glacial region are described as being grand and awe inspiring. It is of course too early to say to a certainty that the Tatla lake country is a failure as a mining section, but Mr. Hayward and party have lost much of their faith which so strongly possessed them a few weeks ago. As was stated in the Mining Journal some weeks ago, no valuable rock has yet been brought out from this section. The Blaney party brought out some small samples of quartz which assayed a trace in gold, iron, etc., just enough so that the locators could testify that they had mineral in place. It will be remembered that a party was outfitted some weeks ago at Vancouver to go in again from the Bute Inlet side and are now probably encamped on the coast side of the range, as it is a terrible trip to get through the passes and to take in supplies this early is well nigh impossible.

The Allison party of three, who have been out in the Tatla lake region in search of the cinnabar, on the strength of the papers found on Stanley Smith, came in yesterday. It is very evident from the samples shown yesterday, of red shale, that the ledges described by Smith as being numerous and not less than four feet, and from that to 100 feet, and of which he had located twenty-three claims, do not carry mineral, and that, deceived by the color of the shale, he had jumped to the conclusion it was cinnabar. Both the Hayward and Allison parties state that the stakes set by Smith, and three blazed by him, had been pulled up or cut down in such a manner as to destroy all evidence of Smith's locations and had been restaked by other parties, but all unite in stating that the country is not a good one for mineral and that they want no more of it.—B. C. Mining Journal.

A secret High Church society called "The Companions of St. John" is causing trouble at Cambridge university. It was started by a college tutor, has a rather ridiculous initiation ceremony, and is objected to for indiscreet proselytizing. It has a badge with the letters L and D, for love and duty, which was at first worn openly, but is now worn under the clothing, so that the society has been nicknamed "The Ballybanders."

Ninty Per Cent.

Of all the people need to take a course of Hood's Sarsaparilla at this season to prevent that run down and debilitated condition which invites disease. The money invested in half a dozen bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla will come back with large returns in the health and vigor of body and strength of nerves.

HOOD'S PILLS are easy to buy, easy to take, easy to operate. Cure all liver ills. 25c.

NORTH SAANICH.

YOUNG BEN III.

YOUNG BEN III. will stand at his own stable, North Saanich, for mares for the season 1896, as follows: To insure, $15; for season, $9; single service, $6.

A. MENAUGH.

Also span of brown mares for sale.