

countered which is said on good authority to assay  $1\frac{1}{2}$  unces of gold to the ton and about 7 per cent. copper. Some large pieces of this ore have been brought up from the mine, and altogether about ten tons have been placed on the dump. The ore is evidently from one of the main veins of the camp, a vein which runs southeast and northwest. This is evident enough judging from the size and quantity of the pieces abstracted from the ledge. So far there have been cut two and a-half feet of this solid ore and I am credibly informed that the point where this was cut is the lowest in the camp measured from the surface. Mr. William S. Harkens is the superintendent, and there is much satisfaction in the division on this account. Mr. Harkens is one of the best liked, and most efficient superintendents in the country. The strike itself is the best ever made in the Nickel Plate, which is the property of the British America Corporation.

The Le Roi so far has shipped about 12,400 tons, the War Eagle 10,600, Centre Star 7,000, Iron Mask 1,434, Evening Star 189, I. X. L. 273 and Monte Cristo 40.

The announcement of a further dividend of \$750,000 by the Le Roi management in England has come opportunely. Spring is now here and the present mining situation has begun to show material improvement, so that when my next report is made I hope to be able to show the facts and figures of a general and substantial advance.

#### SLOCAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The one item of the month which naturally overshadows all else is the joyous and far-reaching statement that the labour difficulty is at an end—permanently we venture to hope—and that a general resumption of work underground has taken place. Little remains to be said on this score that cannot readily be conjectured by the intelligent reader, for unfailing signs of coming prosperity are everywhere commencing to put in an appearance. Mines long deserted

and idle are resuming their wonted attitude of energy and bustle, and buildings which have lain silent and unoccupied for many moons resound

once more to the unharmonious clanging of the blacksmith's hammer and the welcome noise of ore-sorters at their work. Altogether the old French proverb "après la pluie, le beau temps" bids fair to be exemplified once more. True, the minds of the populace have been occupied to some extent with the news of the "relief of Ladysmith," the gallant doings of Canadian contingents and other items from the seat of war, and incidentally we have indulged in a mild excitement of our own derived from a more or less exaggerated small-pox scare, but to the professional, business and working man alike these—notwithstanding their evident importance—appear as mere side issues, absolutely nothing sufficing to ruffle the complacency with which he has learned in the last few weeks to view the world, save perhaps the ominous clouds on the political horizon. In the lightness of his heart even these are not taken seriously, and the fact that minor (no joke intended) troubles of a like nature are being experienced in the district around Nelson, Rossland and Boundary serves only to increase his thankfulness for the period of activity attained at last. I voice the unanimous sentiment of the

miners, mine operators and business men generally in expressing the hope that a lasting and final settlement has been reached which will allow the district to progress at its worth, and that it will be long ere a disaster of this character again threatens. The effect of mutual forbearance and concession is seen in the fact that no ill-feeling has been engendered, each of the contestants recognizing that the other necessarily had rights as well as wrongs in the matter of a struggle thus thrust upon them. Like two nations who have expended their resources in the futile art of war, we in the Slocan long now, one and all, for peace accompanied by its glorious economic and industrial conquests. That the strike is at an end would be self-evident to the most casual visitor, but it is perhaps more markedly displayed in a statistical way as shown in the columns of the newspapers. While the ore shipments in the latter half of 1899 totalled only 4,300 tons, over half of that amount has left the district in the first month of the resumption of operations. This might in some quarters be regarded as the result of accumulation, but there is evidence to show that shipments in the ensuing months will likely exceed this figure to a considerable extent. The majority of the mines were not in condition to employ forces on the start, and in addition, the season when the roads are breaking up is obviously very unfavourable for getting down ore. The list of shippers so far includes only fifteen names and several of these figure almost for the first time, so that many of the best known mines are yet to be heard from. The Payne, apparently unwilling to relinquish its hold to the title of the richest mine in the district has started off well, being credited with over half the production to date, consequently we are not surprised to see the stock of this company in the ascendant. None of the other mines have made any conspicuous move as yet, and are hardly expected to, of course, until the roads are in better condition. On account of the early spring we are anticipating a good season for prospectors, the annual exodus this year being billed in advance for the Kettle River district situate between Arrow Lake and Vernon. Reports of rich finds, though conflicting and subject to a liberal discount, are still good enough to warrant investigation at least, and many are waiting only for the snow to vanish before venturing there on business.

Lists of casualties are not confined to South Africa by any means, the yearly recurrence of snow and mud slides attended with fatal consequences reminding us of the precarious nature of the miners' calling. It would appear also from the accident which occurred at Sandon through part of the bank above the town giving way, that the danger is shared to some extent by all who live in the mountains. Two men killed by the Noble Five slide, and one killed and several injured as a result of the Sandon catastrophe is the record for the past week, added to which a solitary worker at the Silver Bell, Kaslo Creek, lost his life through a fall of rock doubtless occasioned by the thaw, and a miner from the Enterprise lies dead from the effects of an unexpected explosion.

It is gratifying to record that most of the ore leaving the Slocan is now consigned to Trail in place of the American smelters. So long as the management continues to give satisfaction it is matter for mutual congratulation, for at present they certainly appear to have the advantage over their competitors in being able to pay on the London price with certain deductions, thereby netting more for the shippers on the