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WILL EXAMINE AND REPORT ON MINES

#### MINING -NOTES.

The machinery for the R. E. Lee has been installed and will be in operation before the end of the week, with the exception of the hoist, which is now en

The ore being taken out of the Waneta and Trail Creek company's claims is greatly improved in ap-

The new shaft on the Homestake is now down 100 feet, with no sign of either wall. At 120 feet a cross: cut will be driven each way,

It is said on authority that work will be resumed on the Great Western and Golden Chariot almost immediately. A large treasury fund has been provided.

The tunnel on the Victory is now in 130 feet and the appearance of the ore is as favorable as ever. Concentrates of the mixed ore, assayed yesrerday, gave returns of ov \$55. The solid ore runs much higher in proportion. Experts say the ore body-which comes to the surface about 300 feet from the point at which the tunnel was started will be reached in a much shorter distance than was at first anticipated. They base this judgment on the dip of the grooms in the walls of the vein, which seldom fails to indicate the dip of the ore chutes.

The Gopher-Homestake tunnel, at 11.1 feet, shows t tree feet of very fine pyrrhotite ore.

It is reported that a 2-foot vein has been struck in the shaft of the Annie E., a claim on Deer Park mountain. Seven inen are working on this property.

An 80-foot shaft will be sunk on the Hattie.

Surface work on the Silver Bell the other day disclosed some remarkably fine galena. Several hundred pounds of the ore was brought into the camp and is being exhibited at the company's office, where it attracts much attention. It is of very fine grade and carries high values in silver, with a good percentage of lead and some copper. There is about three feet of ore showing on the surface.

John Y. Cole, who made a mine of the O. K., is rapidly developing the White Bear, and it looks as if he would soon show up another bonanza in this property. Work has been proceeding unostentatiously but very effectively and there is now a first-class showing in the workings. The shaft is down 110 feet. and from the 100-foot level there is an 18-foot crosscut and a 20-foot drift along the vein, which shows plenty of pay ore. The equipment of the White Bear is complete, and fifteen men are employed in three eighthour shifts.

Messrs. Lee and Anderson, who are largely interested in Boundary Creek prospects, have on view at their office an assortment of ores from that section. The specimens are from a large number of claims and far exceed the average in appearance and value. The Boundary country will undoubtedly be in the front rank in the near future.

The Pure Gold group, near Cascade City, in the Christina Lake district, is attracting a good deal of attention these days. Development work, which is now in progress, is showing up fine mineral, and this property bids fair to prove a bonanza of no small proportions.

Preparations are being made for the resumption of work on the Golden Queen. John Y. Cole, who is heavily interested in this promising property, will superintend the work. He is confident the claim will develop into a big minc.

D. J. Fitzgerald, of Butte, is the new manager of the Trail smelter.

Some very nice ore has been found in the new shaft in the Evening Star.

#### AN INTRICATE LEGAL PROBLEM.

The Hall Mines Company is involved in curious legal complications which may result in the loss of their quarry on Schroeder creek, from which the limestone used in the company's smelter is obtained During the past year the company has been taking limestone from the quarry which was located in its behalf on January 27, 1896, by M. S. Davys, the mine manager, under the name of the mineral claim Real

On January 28, 1897, no assessment work had been recorded for the Red Star and the ground was relocated and recorded on that day by M. M. Grotbe &. Kaslo, as the mineral claim Fair Play. Subsequently on February 5, H. E. Croasdile-business manages of the Hall mines; filed an affidavit of assessment: work on the Red Star and received from the mining recorder a certificate of work: Apparently not much reliance was placed upon this, for on February & ... William Simpson recorded the mineral claim Calcium as a relocation of the Red Star, on behalt of the Hall mines, On the same day C. F. Caldwell and Guy Reeder recorded a bill of sale of the Fais Place from M. M. Grothe to themselves,

The Hall mines continued to work the property and sent out a party to survey the claim for a crown grant\_ Then Caldwell and Reeder brought an injunction suit against the Hall mines to restrain them from working in or trespassing upon the property.

Now a third claimant appears for this property, and relying on the fact that both of the other parties have treated this quarry as a mineral claim, he has givera notice that at the expiration of thirty days he will apply to the commissioner of lands and works for a lease of 160 acres of land, covering the same ground, for the purpose of making and developing a stont quarry, which is treated under an entirely different law from that relating to mineral claims. The third. party to the controversy is John Keene of Nelson.

#### KOOTENAY PROPERLY "SIZED" UP.

David K. Lee, president of the Colorado Ore Company, has recently returned from a visit to the Kootenay mining region of British Columbia, says the Denver Republican.

"I regard that district," said he, "as one of the richest mining sections ever discovered. Some idea of the production may be obtained from the statement of the ore shipments for this year up to-January 25, taken from the local papers. This gives as the total of one shipments 3,222 tons and of matte 7431/2 tons. This is from but a very few mines, axthe country has not yet been thoroughly developed. The country is now covered with snow, and therefore I could form no intelligent idea of its extent but from. the developments already made. I am convinced that it is one of the largest mineralized areas year

discovered.
"The climate there is very mild, probably influenced more or less by the Japan current. The timber is very heavy, much of it so large that it is difficult to handle, only the smaller trees about twofeet in diameter bein; used for lumber. The great mines there are doing remarkably well and are paying dividends on large capital. The mountains: are very steep, the slopes being at an angle of 35. degrees, and a great deal of ore is now being taxehided down the mountains, from a ton to a ton a liais being hauled down in a single hide, at an expense of not to exceed 40 cents a ton. All of the lodes are rich, many of them carrying extraordinary values

"While I was there the War Eagle was sold! for \$810,000, and an offer of \$4,000,000 was made for the Le Roi and refused. A large amount of British capital's finding its way into the district and picking up the best properties. While the country seems full of people now the development of the mineral ized zone, which has not yet been determined, but inknown to extend indefinitely to the north, is attracting; more people, and it is expected that there willbe and unprecedented rush to that section as soon as the spring opens up. I regard it as the best minium region that I have ever investigated."