

AINSWORTH CAMP.

The prospect of the early starting of the Pilot Bay smelter has had a good effect on Ainsworth camp. The No. 1 mine is making regular shipments to Pilot Bay, and work is being pushed ahead on the Tariff, which is owned by the lessees of the smelter. As there are about 1,000 tons of ore on the Tariff dump, and the property is in pretty good shape, it will doubtless be able to meet the smelter's requirements of 50 tons per day. Some twenty men are working on the Highland. The Stevensons have an 8-foot body of ore in this property. The concentrator was started upon Friday, and regular shipments will shortly be made. The tramway from the Highland is working well, delivering 50 tons of ore every ten hours.

Woodbury Creek will, it is expected, receive a large share of attention next Summer. There have already been 75 to 100 locations staked around the head of the creek.

THE PILOT BAY SMELTER.

Within the last few days the negotiations between the owners of the Pilot Bay smelter property and Messrs. Braden Brothers, have been completed. The latter gentlemen have taken a lease of the property with an option for the purchase of it within a certain time. It is, therefore, probable that before long the works will again be in full operation. The conditions for successful operation are much more favorable now than they were a few years ago, while the improved transportation facilities, which will be secured within the next few months, will put an entirely different phase on the problem of profitable smelting at Pilot Bay. With cheaper fuel and the possibility of obtaining the selection of ores requisite for satisfactory and economical operation of the smelter, added to the practical knowledge, ample financial resources and extensive connections of the new proprietors, there should not be much doubt of successful results at the Pilot Bay smelter. The addition of another smelting plant to those at present in West Kootenay will be hailed with pleasure throughout the district, and Messrs. Braden Brothers' operations will be followed with interest by mine-owners and others.

SUMMIT CITY.

At the New Westminster banquet to Sir Charles Tupper a representative of the News-Advertiser had a seat near Mr. Thomas Shannon, of the Surrey Mining Company, who has been looking after four claims owned by that company in Summit City. Mr. Shannon told of the remarkable progress that camp had made this year. About 10 claims were recorded up to Sept., 1896, now the number is quite 1,000. The chief work in the dis-

trict has been done by an American company, called the Indiana, of which Mr. N. C. Murphy is the active superintendent. This company, said Mr. Shannon, is not afraid to spend money if it sees something is coming back. The company, under Mr. Murphy, has in fact opened up the district. It spent over \$500 in making a trail from the Nicola Trail to Summit City. The chief claim is the Star. Mr. Shannon has secured some good claims for his company, and says that in his opinion the district is one of the best in British Columbia. He has seen no better surface showings in the Province and declares that for the amount of work done there is more to show for it than in any other camp in British Columbia.

THE GREAT WESTERN OF SLOCAN.

The returns for the 13th car of ore shipped from the Great Western, operated by the Two Friends Company of this City, have just been received. The car contained 13 1-2 tons of concentrates, and the net returns, after paying \$234.90 duty, were \$763.08.

It is understood that the Washington mine intends to largely increase the capacity of its concentrator, and also to put in practically a new plant. Thus, if the Two Friends Company still continues to have its concentrating ore treated at the Washington mill, much larger returns may be expected, as samples of the tailings assayed by Mr. W. Pellew-Harvey, of this City, have given a value of \$9 per ton, and this, with improved machinery, will be saved.

Mr. George Turner, the Company's Superintendent, has returned to the mine, and is making arrangements to prosecute development work all Winter.

THE EXCELSIOR.

The following is an extract from Superintendent Jensen's report, dated November 7th: In regard to the claim, the upper tunnel shows 151 feet, and all in quartz. The rock is ribboned with fine seams of black talc and schist, and a little slate, in fine layers. The quartz itself looks immensely well, and even if low in value, should make it an immense property. The lower tunnel is now in 18 feet, having made excellent progress last week. I have not yet reached the ledge proper, having started underneath it, but about one-half the face is now in quartz, so that I expect in one more week to be in quartz altogether.

GOOD FOR NELSON.

Nelson is rapidly forging to the front, and there is now little doubt, that aided by C. P. R. connections, and made by that Company a central point for its operations in West Kootenay, the city will become first and foremost amongst the towns of that district. The mine exports made via the port of Nelson tell a satisfactorily significant tale, having been in October valued at \$835,050, the heaviest on local record by more than \$100,000.

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Leave Nelson for Kaslo and way points,
daily except Sunday, 5:30 p.m.

Leaving Spokane 8 a.m.; Rossland, 10:30 a.m.; Northport, 1:30 p.m.

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