

thereon, but it is generally thought that the amount required to be taken in stock is more than New Westminster as a city can afford to add to its present very considerable, albeit largely secured and in part monetarily representative municipal indebtedness.

Only quiet work of development—and this proceeding slowly—is at present being done on the copper-gold claims owned by the Findlay syndicate and others up Seymour Creek, North Vancouver. Some of the claims are, however, bonded to an English syndicate and properties as a rule require very considerable capital—far more than present owners possess or command—in order to be made profitable shippers. Considerable lengths of tramway and a large amount of working plant of a good and somewhat costly type are required on most cases by these properties close to Vancouver.

The directors of the Golden Ears mine, at Pitt Lake, are well satisfied with the results of the experimental shipment now being made to the Vivians of Swansea of twenty tons of ore. Mr. Pellew Harvey, of Vancouver, having sampled it, values the ore sent at rather over \$50 a ton, a value chiefly represented by copper, though the ore runs over \$3.50 to the ton in silver, and also contains a little gold. It is stated that the mine will, before Christmas, send further small shipments, probably amounting to about 100 tons, and early in 1898 make steady and more rapid headway. Messrs. Seymour, Clinton and others have property at Pitt Lake adjoining the Golden Ears mine, which is stated to be at least equally rich, and there is accordingly a good prospect from these and other claims there located, that Pitt Lake will, much to the advantage of the supply town of New Westminster, become a productive copper-gold camp. Very busy development work is meanwhile proceeding about Harrison Lake at various camps, on which many miners are already engaged in preliminary operations. Good accounts are to hand as to the extent and value of the ore on the Providence mine in particular, for which mine, in a then almost undeveloped state, an offer of \$75,000 was some time since refused by the owners. Some of the best ore is here believed to lie under the lake, and in that direction accordingly tunnelling and other operations will be directed. Experts, however, do not all agree that the mine is being worked on so skilled and businesslike a basis as is desirable. But the working owners think otherwise and expect to justify their strong faith in the value of the mine by early future results of further ore shipments sent to Everett for smelting. The Fire Mountain Company also possess on Harrison Lake a property believed to be very rich in free gold. Their claim, the Money Spinner, is stated to reveal much visible free gold, as a result of a considerable amount of preliminary development work, done with a view to expose the ledges. A stamp mill will, it is hoped, be at work early next month, and the directors also intend to spend a large amount in making a tramway, trails and other mine facilities that are specially necessary to a claim situated 5,000 feet above the sea. It is stated that a recent test of Fire Mountain rock assayed \$82 in gold to the ton, though this probably was an exceptionally good sample.

Good reports are to hand of the successful working of a gold amalgamating machine recently invented by Mr. Parke, of Vancouver, which, on a recent test, is stated to have worked easily and successfully, losing only ten per cent. in the tailings of the assay value

put through the machine. More probably, will be heard of this invention later.

It is understood that despite the partial disappointment of very exceptional and, perhaps, too high pitched expectations, in connection with the Golden Cache mine, some very important transfers of Lillooet free-milling gold claims in the same neighbourhood are now on foot. New Brunswick capitalists are figuring in one of the largest of these, the negotiations being on the part of vendors, conducted by well-known Vancouver men.

There is understood to be legal trouble possible concerning an intended transfer to a new Company of the very promising Silver Tip mine on Texada Island. This may, however, all be settled satisfactorily and, it is to be hoped, will be ere this issue of the MINING RECORD appears.

It is reported on the authority of Vancouver purchasers of the Haskins and other controlling interests in the Orphan Boy free-milling gold claim in the North Bend country, that those stockholders in the former Orphan Boy Company whose rights were so ruthlessly disregarded by the former directorate, will be fairly compensated by the new purchasers. However, as yet, according to the *Revelstoke Herald*' dispossessed stockholders know nothing of the asserted abandonment of the civil action against the Vancouver purchasers in question, in virtue of a fair compromise settlement. This, however, will, it is to be hoped, be arranged, as amongst those concerned to secure it are men with reputations, who have, moreover, promised to do the right thing towards former stockholders, who were assuredly badly used, whether under sufficient shelter of snatch legal procedure or not. Opinions differ as to the real worth of the Orphan Boy, the credit of which as a free-milling gold claim has suffered very severely, as a result of many and serious misrepresentations as to the amount of work done and other matters. The real worth of the claim has yet to be proved, and about this at present experts have most contradictory opinions.

THE IMPASSABLE PASS.

AT an extraordinary general meeting of the British Columbia Development Association, Ltd., held in London on the 28th of last month, Mr. R. Byron Johnston, the chairman, stated to the shareholders assembled that "the White Pass has now been generally admitted and proclaimed to be the future highway of the Yukon Basin"; that "we hold the key to the position as regards the traffic of that great country"; and, that "this view is clearly shared by the Dominion Government and the present Government of British Columbia." Now, these statements and others contained in the chairman's address are highly misleading and calculated to impart a false impression to the shareholders and general public of Great Britain as to the real nature of the White Pass and as to the so-called trail through it, claimed to have been constructed by this Company. In the first place, the fact, known to every one on the Pacific Coast, that of the thousands of hardy, determined and well-equipped men who struggled this year to get through the White Pass, not more than one in ten succeeded, while of those who braved the steep and dangerous heights of the Chilcoot Pass nearly all succeeded in getting over, gives the lie to the statement that the White Pass is the "key to the situation," the "future highway of the Yukon Basin," etc. I myself know