

A DISASTER.

The Steamer Alpha is a Total Wreck—Many People are Drowned.

Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 18.—News of the worst marine disaster of the season in British Columbia waters was brought here at 9 o'clock last night by the steamer Cear from Union Bay, on the east coast of Vancouver island. The famous steamer Alpha, whose unauthorized trip to Cape Nome last May brought her into conflict with the treasury officials at Washington, was wrecked on a reef near the entrance to Union Bay, and not a vestige of the 1,000-ton steamer remains. Her managing owner, master, purser, three engineers, two able-bodied seamen and a stowaway were drowned, and the balance of the crew of 34 were saved by the pluck of an unknown member of the ship's company, who swam in a raging sea from the wreck to a light-house with a line around his waist.

The drowned are: Samuel Barber of Vancouver, managing owner; Capt. F. N. Yorke of Victoria, master; Chief Engineer Matterson, Vancouver; Assistant Engineer Dunn, Victoria; Second Assistant Engineer Murray, Vancouver; H. L. White, purser, Vancouver; Crosby and Sullivan, able-bodied seamen; and a stowaway (unknown).

The Alpha was valued at \$40,000. Her cargo comprised 750 tons of salt salmon, and 350 tons of coal, consigned to Yokohama, and valued at \$80,000. The total insurance on ship and cargo was \$65,000.

It is two weeks since the Alpha first started from Vancouver for Japan. After she had been four days on the return to Victoria, partly disabled, and accused of tampering with her engines were made. Some of the crew and several of the officers left the steamer, declaring that she had been improperly loaded, and one of the officers was tried and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for desertion. Last Saturday the Alpha left Victoria for Union Bay to replenish her coal supply.

A Thursday night the steamer ran on a rock at Baynes Sound, at the entrance to Union Bay. She was quickly dashed to pieces, and all would have perished had not one of the crew made the desperate and successful effort to swim with a line to the lighthouse on Yellow island. In the raging sea, only part of those on the ill-fated ship managed to reach safety, the officers and owner remaining on board and failing to reach the rock. The 25 survivors remained on Yellow island, which is a rock 200 feet wide, until Sunday night, when the sea moderated somewhat and a sloop was able to call and take them to Union Bay. But the storm which had wrecked the ship had prostrated the wires, and so nothing of the shipwreck reached the outside world until the little steamer Cear brought the story to Vancouver last night.

The Alpha gained notoriety last spring when, as a Canadian ship, she landed freight and passengers in Nome in defiance of the instructions of the Treasury department and, it is said, against the advice of the British embassy at Washington as well. She was pursued on her return trip from Nome by a United States revenue cutter, but managed to show her pursuer a clean pair of heels. Since that exciting experience the Alpha has been engaged in the British Columbia coasting trade until she started on her present disastrous trip.

The Dominion government steamer Quadra leaves at daylight in the morning for the scene of the wreck of the steamer Alpha, and will take surveys to Vancouver. The captain of the steamer is Saturday morning, blowing distress signals and drifting. Capt. Yorke said he did not want assistance, the only trouble being overheated bearings. The owner of the vessel offered to engage a pilot to take the steamer to Comox, but Capt. Yorke said it was not necessary. Engineer Gordon and other members of the crew, who deserted the vessel after she returned with water in her hold from her first attempt to cross the Pacific, say the steering gear of the vessel did not work properly. Gordon is also in jail, he having purposely run foul of the police while drunk so that he would not have to go out on the vessel.

Boy Killed by Train.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 18.—Roy McFee, aged 10 years, was killed this afternoon by a C. P. R. gravel train at Barnet, 12 miles from Vancouver. He was playing on the track, when he was knocked down by a car which cut in two. His father is employed on the Canadian Pacific in Kootenay. The body was brought in on tonight's train from Seattle.

Victoria Notes.

Victoria, Dec. 18.—The steamer Royalist, with sugar, ten days overdue from Moji, Japan, showed up at daylight this morning. The steamer Queen City, from the West Coast, reports very rough weather, but no further news regarding the wreckage reported last week.

G. L. Roy Dana, of New York, a mining engineer, has returned here after a hard trip to the head of the Portland canal. He had to abandon his horses and outfit on account of the heavy snow. The charge of petty theft against Hume Yorrington, formerly mayor of Carson City, was dismissed by the police magistrate.

VANCOUVER NEWS.

Smallpox Cases in the Terminal City. Burglaries Committed.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 17.—Two cases of smallpox were located today and the patients, brothers, named Saint, were removed to the isolation hospital. The disease was probably contracted at Skagway.

Several miles of dike was partially washed away on Lulu island and Fraser river delta by the heavy storm of Saturday night and Sunday. Twenty thousand dollars worth is the estimate of the damage done.

Two large burglaries were committed in Vancouver and Westminster on Sunday night. At the latter place several hundreds of dollars worth of jewelry was taken from Thorber's store.

THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL.

Protests Against the Return of Prior and Earle—Deadman's Island.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 15.—The steamer Alpha, which returned to port last week

with her stove hole full of water, continued her voyage to Yokohama today, having been pronounced seaworthy. Her engineers and other crew deserted her, claiming that she was not fit to go to sea. The inspectors passed her.

The question whether the Dominion or Provincial government own Deadman's island, which has been a political issue in Vancouver for a year, and over which the Cemin government split, is to come before the Supreme court here next week.

Protests have been filed against the election of Prior and Earle, Conservatives, to the Dominion parliament on the usual grounds of corruption.

WEEKLY STOCK REVIEW.

Sales for the Week Aggregated 104,000 Shares, Etc.

The stock business is jogging along at a fairly steady gait, with fair business each day. The nearness of the holidays curtails the volume of transactions, but this is nothing unusual as there is always a period of quietude before and after the Christmas and New Year holidays. The standards continue to be dealt in and speculation is confined almost wholly to properties of known merit, and which either are mines or stand good chances of making mines. Everything connected with mining is in a buoyant condition and all the elements essential to a strong market are manifesting themselves. The output of ore is rapidly increasing, confidence in the mines is being placed in mining properties, and over the Kootenaya and Yale than ever before. The tide is on the flood for this section and is carrying it on toward an increased prosperity. The representatives of investors from Eastern Canada, Great Britain, the United States and France are coming and going and they speak only words of praise for the mines here. Under the circumstances it seems impossible to long keep the stock market from becoming active.

The sales for the week by days were as follows: Thursday, 21,500; Friday, 16,000; Saturday, 15,000; Monday, 20,000; Tuesday, 16,500; Wednesday, 15,900.

Total, 104,000. Against 101,800 for the previous week. During the week ending last evening there were 51,500 shares of White Bear sold against 47,000 for the previous week. The price opened at the commencement of the week at from 4 to 4 1/8 cents and closed at the same figures. It sold on Monday of this week as low as 3 7/8 cents, but rallied to 4 cents on Tuesday. Besides the regular sales 40,000 shares of White Bear were sold on 60-day call at 4 1/4 to 4 1/2 cents, for 1 1/2 of a cent per share above the work of extending the north crosscut toward the ledge recently encountered by the diamond drill in the White Bear is progressing, but it will take about two months to reach the vein.

Tamarac is not moving much, although it is promised that the tramway will be completed and shipments commenced early in January. There were 2,500 Tamarac sold for 4 1/2 cents.

Winnipeg is not moving much, but 2,000 shares were sold for 3 cents. Notices have been sent to the stockholders of the Winnipeg Mines, limited, notifying them that an assessment of 1 cent per share has been levied.

Giant started in at 2 5/8 and fell to 2 1/2 cents. There were 17,000 shares of Giant sold during the week. Work on the Giant continues along the usual lines. Rambler-Cariboo was 26 cents at the commencement of the week, rose to 26 1/2 on Saturday, sold for as high as 26 1/2 on Saturday, and yesterday and Tuesday sold at 26 to 26 1/4 cents. There were 16,500 sold during the week.

There were 3,500 St. Elmo sold during the week, the price ranging from 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 cents.

Virginia moved to the extent of 5,000 shares and the price was 2 cents. There was a sale of 1,000 Noble Five for 2 1/2 cents.

Appended are the official quotations for yesterday of the Rossland Mining and Stock Exchange:

Table with columns: Name, Asked, Bid. Includes Athabasca, S. C. Gold Fields, Big Three, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Price. Includes Jumbo, King (Oro Denoro), Knob Hill, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Price. Includes Montreal Gold Fields, Mornington, Mountain Lion, etc.

Thursday's Sales. Tamarac, 2,500 at 4 1/2; White Bear, 4,000 at 4, 5,000 at 4 1/8, 3,000 at 4 1/8; Winnipeg, 2,000 at 3; Giant, 2,000 at 25-8, 2,000 at 23-4, 1,000 at 25-8. Total sales, 21,500 shares.

Friday's Sales. White Bear, 1,000 at 4 cents, 5,000 at 4 cents, coast delivery, 5,000 at 4 cents; Rambler-Cariboo, 2,000 at 26 cents, 1,000 at 26 cents; Giant, 2,000 at 2 3/4 cents. Total sales 16,000.

Saturday's Sales. White Bear, 5,000 at 4 1/8; 3,000 at 4 1/8; Rambler-Cariboo, 2,000 at 26; 1,000 at 26; 2,000 at 26. Giant, 2,000 at 2 5/8. Total sales 15,000.

Monday Sales. White Bear, 2,000 at 4, 1,000 at 3 7/8, 5,000 at 4; Giant, 5,000 at 2 1/2; Morning Glory, 5,000 at 8 1/4; Rambler-Cariboo, 3,000

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at 26 1/4. Total sales, 20,000 shares. Morning Glory, 60 days, 5,000 at 8 3/4, 1 cent down. Tuesday's Sales. Virginia, 5,000 at 2c; White Bear, 2,500 at 4c; 3,000 at 4c. Giant, 1,000 at 2 1/2c; Rambler-Cariboo, 500 at 26c; 1,500 at 26 1/2c; 1,000 at 26 1/4c. St. Elmo, 1,000 at 3 1/2c; 1,000 at 2 3/4c. Total sales, 16,500.

Call—White Bear, 10,000, 60 days, at 4 1/4c; 1 1/2 cent down. Wednesday's Sales. St. Elmo, 1,500 at 3 1/4c; Noble Five, 1,000 at 2 1/2c; Rambler-Cariboo, 500 at 26c, 3,000 at 26 1/4c; Giant, 2,000 at 2 1/2c; White Bear, 2,000 at 4c, 2,000 at 4c, 3,000 at 4 1/8c.

J. L. WHITNEY & Co Mining Brokers.

TO DEVELOP THE MINE. The Dardanelles Company Planning Much New Work.

At a meeting of the Dardanelles Mining & Milling company, limited, with head offices at Victoria, held on June 20 last, it was resolved that the directors of the company be empowered to borrow on behalf of the company, on debentures, a sum not exceeding \$45,000, says the Kootenaya.

The directors have made arrangements whereby all the debts owed by the company have been transferred to one man so that satisfactory arrangements for the opening up of the mine again can be made.

The Dardanelles company was formed in December, 1896, with a capital stock of \$1,000,000 in \$1 shares. It was incorporated in September, 1896. The officers are: President, Hon. Fred Peters; vice-president, Col. S. W. Ray, Port Arthur; secretary, William McGrier. The other directors are Sir Charles H. Tupper, J. J. Shallock, Capt. C. E. Clark and J. J. L. Myer.

THE COUNTY COURT.

Sittings Held Yesterday in the Masonic Hall—Cases Disposed Of.

There were several cases disposed of in the County court in yesterday's sittings. Judge Forin was on the bench. The cases before the court and the decisions, where rendered, are as follows:

Jones vs. Wright, for money loaned, Mrs. Sarah MacLean garnished. In this case Mr. George Agnew laid claim to the amount of money paid into the court by the garnishee, \$50.50, and for \$51 in addition. Judgment was rendered for the plaintiff, but the plaintiff George Agnew, was instructed to bring action. No decision was made in the interim with regard to this money. W. J. Nelson appeared for the plaintiff and C. R. Hamilton for the defendant.

Cranston vs. Smith, partnership claim: The case was referred to the registrar to act as referee between the parties, take an account and render a report. W. S. Deacon appeared for the plaintiff and J. A. Macdonald for the defendant.

Wright vs. Wright, money appropriated: Judgment given for plaintiff. W. J. Nelson appeared for the plaintiff.

Wah Lee vs. Hastings, Anglo-Lardeau Gold Mining Syndicate garnished; for balance of account: Not heard. W. S. Deacon appears for the plaintiff and C. R. Hamilton for the defendant.

Merchants' Bank of Halifax vs. Hastings, Anglo-Lardeau G.M.S. garnished; paid into court \$28.75: Judgment for plaintiff

and money paid out. W. S. Deacon appeared for the plaintiff. Hunter Bros. vs. Ryan, goods sold, Canadian Smelting Works garnished; paid into court \$28.75: Judgment for plaintiffs and money paid out. W. S. Deacon appeared for the plaintiff.

Owen vs. Henderson and Thomas, rent, the Lion Brewery garnished: Not heard. W. J. Whiteside appears for plaintiff and W. S. Deacon for the defendants.

Coleman and Randall vs. Hammond, goods sold, Canadian Smelting Works garnished, \$26.85 paid into court: Judgment for plaintiffs, P. Mc. L. Forin appeared for the plaintiff.

Ronayne vs. Hunter and the Canadian Mutual Mining and Development company, mechanic's lien: Not heard. C. J. Leggart appears for the plaintiff.

Hermiston vs. Hunter and the Canadian Mutual M. & D. Co., mechanic's lien: Not heard. C. J. Leggart appears for the plaintiff.

McBride vs. Weller, goods sold, H. S. Wallace garnished: Case postponed with the costs of one witness to stand. H. E. A. Courtney appears for the plaintiff.

Mullevy vs. Husband, wages: Not heard. J. A. Macdonald appears for the plaintiff and W. J. Nelson for the defendant.

O'Hearn vs. Barbara, commission: Part heard. J. A. Macdonald appeared for the plaintiff and W. S. Deacon for the defendant.

McLennan vs. Canadian Mutual M. & D. Co., mechanic's lien: Not heard. C. E. Gillan appears for the plaintiff.

Malory vs. the Canadian Mutual M. & D. Co., mechanic's lien: Not heard. C. E. Gillan appears for the plaintiff.

Fox vs. O'Connell, goods sold: Judgment for plaintiff. C. E. Gillan appeared for the plaintiff.

Munroe vs. Finnegan, for board, New St. Elmo garnished: Judgment for plaintiff. W. S. Deacon appeared for the plaintiff.

Lave vs. Cranston, promissory note: Judgment for plaintiff. J. L. G. Abbott appeared for the plaintiff.

Brown vs. Hunter et al., mechanic's lien: Not heard. C. J. Leggart appears for the plaintiff.

Taylor vs. Lockhart & Jordan, rent: Not heard. A. H. MacNeill appears for the plaintiff and J. L. G. Abbott for the defendants.

L'Ecuyer vs. Mongin, board, Centre Star garnished, paid into court \$26.85. Not heard. C. E. Gillan appears for the plaintiff.

EAST KOOTENAY.

The Moyie Mines—The Silver Belt—The Cornucopia and Others.

George Doherty is still sinking on the Doherty claim.

The Black Bear mine will shortly recommence work.

Nels Robinson is working on a galena property near Maus creek.

Dave Newell and others are hard at work on the Greenhorn fraction.

North Star mine is making regular shipments of 60 to 70 tons daily.

Development work is proceeding rapidly on the Viking. It is said that a considerable body of ore has been encountered.

Work still continues on the Estella. It is reported that improvement in the ore body is plainly seen as development proceeds.

As a fluxing ore for silver-lead products the ore obtained from the Cornucopia is said to be excellent, besides carrying values of \$8 to \$10.

Work on the Mountain Goat claim, which is situated near Moyie, will be commenced at once. The owners have six inches of galena to start on.

Charles Farrell is still working a small force on the Society Girl, and the ore continues to improve. There is lots of ore in the shaft, but the work is delayed by water.

R. O. Jennings moved the diamond-drill Monday and boring was recommenced Tuesday, says the Prospector. Judging from the smile on Mr. Jennings' face, "Well, yes! there is ore."

The three producing mines in East Kootenay are the St. Eugene, North Star and Sullivan. These three mines are producing mineral to a value of \$3,000,000 a year.

Paul Handley is hauling ore as fast as he can, bringing down 40 to 50 tons daily. The condition of the road is bad, caused by the soft weather. Men are at work shovelling snow on the road.

The Mount Sicker and British Columbia Development company is at present running a tunnel on the Midget fraction, and are now almost under the Stonewall Jackson. They have good indications of ore, and are working a fissure vein, and are now in 110 feet. Seven men are employed.

O. J. Johnson has a small force at work on the Aurora mine, which is situated on the west side of Lake Moyie, and is supposed to be an extension of the St. Eugene vein. A tunnel has been driven 225 feet; at 200 feet a crosscut was run showing eight feet of concentrating ore, and the tunnel is still going in following on the vein.

The Silver Belt Mining company, limited, has been incorporated as a limited company with a capital of \$100,000, divided into 1,000,000 shares at ten cents each. The company own the following properties, situated on Spring creek, in the Windermere mining division: Silver Belt, Carbonate, Golden Rod and Silver Belt Fraction.

MORNING GLORY ORE. Fourteen Tons Netted \$6,670 in Gold and Silver.

Grand Forks, Dec. 18.—(Special.)—Fourteen Tons Netted \$6,670 in Gold and Silver. The Morning Glory mine treated at the Granby smelter netted values of \$6,670 in gold and silver.

A 20-drill duplex Rand drill air compressor has been ordered for the Snowshoe mine in Wellington camp. The property is owned by the British Columbia, Rossland and Slocan syndicate of which Anthony J. McMillan of Rossland is 100 per cent director.

The New City hall and Central Fire station on First street was inaugurated yesterday. It is a handsome structure and was built under the supervision of W. R. McPherson, architect.

KAMLOOPS.

Third Payment on the Iron Mask—Work Upon the Copper King.

The Tenderfoot company has placed a large block of stock successfully in the lower country.

Work on the Python is proceeding satisfactorily. The spring should bring good news from this well known property.

Another large block of stock of the Cornucopia Consolidated was sold last week in England. Work will proceed regularly after the holidays.

Mr. H. C. Foster has been developing his properties 100 miles south of Gold. He has already 300 tons of clean silver lead ore on the dump, worth nearly \$50,000 to the ton.

The drift on the Kimberley is now about 15 feet, and may be said to be entirely in ore, the quality of which for the last few feet has been improving in most satisfactory way. The ore is of quality good enough to ship.

James Macdonald and McDonald are pushing the work on the Noonday one of the free mining propositions of the camp, with good success. The property is owned by the British Columbia, Rossland and Slocan syndicate, and is now being worked by the latter.

A third payment of \$11,000 was made on the Iron Mask. This makes \$17,000 to date. Capt. Argall and the purchasers evidence are well satisfied with their property, or the payment would not have been made.

Two more men have been put to work on the Copper King, and work is being conducted without cessation, says Standard. The shaft hole is now erect and will afford proper protection in the weather. A blacksmith shop and ore cars are also built, and a track is being laid from the mouth of the shaft. A few well known persons went out on Monday to view the property, and as a consequence have invested in shares of the company.

THE LARDEAU.

Operation of Work on the Silver Cup—Excursions Over the District.

Four men are working at the West. The latest reports from the property are to the effect that the men have turned out as well as expected, and are looking ore is piling up on the dump.

Work on the Black Bear has been suspended until spring. The tunnel is now 74 feet. This property is one of the most promising in the Fish Creek camp, though at present a little difficult for work.

W. H. Deveraux, on the Copper Dollar, has been surveying the property. This claim joins the Brunswick. While at work a survey party discovered a third lead, a quartz from which closely resembles that taken from the Eva.

The Belpee, operated by a syndicate of British people, with W. H. Jackson, Rossland as manager, has six men employed. The tunnel is now in about 60 feet on the lead, which is reported to be in 10 to 12 feet in width with two streaks running very high in silver, gold and lead.

On the Brunswick, belonging to the I. do-Goldsmith mines of Rossland, the men are working on a lead about 20 feet in width carrying copper and galena. Smelter tests give a value in copper and silver of \$52 per ton. A peculiarity of the vein is that the copper and galena are separate streaks. Ore from this property has a place in the exhibit from Fish Creek, which obtained a grand prize at the Paris Exposition.

The Calcutta is one of the many promising prospects that have in our district. It is situated about 100 feet from Ferguson. Its owners are M. W. Hivan, who is interested in Cromwell, 2, and J. H. Graham, Rossland, and J. Piper, Trout Lake. Although the claim was only located in August of this year, considerable prospecting work has been done. The lead, which shows up in the head of Brown creek, about 180 feet, has been stripped for about 180 feet, disclosing a promising gold, silver property. Two shafts have been commenced at each end of the surface work. One had been sunk five feet and the other seven feet when snow compelled discontinuance of work. The one assay obtained showed \$14 of gold, 35 per cent of silver and 41 ounces in silver.

On the Eva property, adjoining Brunswick, and now operated by the

ROSSLAND WEEKLY MINER. Two Dollars a Year. FROM OTHER PAGES. Naturally, being the depth of winter, there is little to report on the progress of the minor properties scattered all over the Kootenaya and which too often have roads affording a rapid means of ingress and egress to and from them. This militates against continuous work throughout the winter months, but there is, despite the presence of these untoward conditions, quite a little work going on; nevertheless this is especially the case with regard to the properties situated in the coming districts of Peterborough and Kamloops. The Lardeau, now that it has definite promise of a railroad, will make great strides during the coming year and can well afford, under the circumstances, to have one or two of its shipping positions to close down work, carried out at the best under anything but favorable conditions, for the remainder of the winter. The Boundary and the Sloan are both looking very well, the latter having shipped about 25,000 tons this year and the former about 115,000. Next year, under the more favorable conditions a big advance is looked for from both sections.