

locations, and threaten litigation, but it is generally believed that Messrs. Moodie and Connor are in the right. About three weeks ago C. Baines and H. Cooper brought in from the Bluewater specimens showing free gold, and these caused a good deal of excitement in Donald. It is reported that the Bluewater and Clearwater Rivers are likely to be worked as placers by a Vancouver syndicate, the black sand in their beds having been found to carry gold similar to that found in the black sands of the Saskatchewan on the other side of the range. The Mitchell-Innes Bros. have started men on the development of their claims at Beaver and Prairie Mountain. The Bald Mountain Co. have also put development work in hand, the bond on their property having lapsed. Development work is being carried on by the Golden & Fort Steele Development Co. on the Kinbasket Lake claims. The shaft has struck the lode at a depth of fifty feet.

In the Columbia Valley, south of Golden, there is great activity. Messrs. Wattelet and Langis, of Vancouver, have let a contract of getting out three hundred tons of ore from their group of claims at Bugaboo. If the Golden smelter is operated, the ore will be treated here, but if not it will be shipped to Tacoma. The Hon. F.W. Aylmer has arranged to spend \$2,000 on development of his Balrath property at Bugaboo. Work has already been done on this claim to the extent of \$3,200. Mr. Townsend, who represents the Toronto syndicate that owns the International, on the Middle Fork of the Spallumcheen, is pushing on development, and if the present prospects continue, concentrators will be put in during the spring. Work will be carried on all winter. An arrangement is being made for the sale of the Burns group, on Bobbie Burns Creek, to an English syndicate. Most important news is to hand from the Crown Point, at the head of McMurdo Creek, where the development work has resulted in the lode being struck and proved to a depth of 112 feet. The ledge was cut across, and was found to be twenty-six feet in thickness; and consists of a true fissure vein, with a clay gouge to either wall. The vein through its entire width is very heavily mineralized—in fact it is a large body of concentrating ore, with seams of very clean, high-grade ore running through it. This strike establishes the fact of the continuity of the veins in this part of the country, and shows that they carry value with them.

Good accounts reach here of excellent showing in the Mineral King, on Toby Creek, and it is expected that the mine will shortly be a shipper. Prospectors are very active at both Toby and Horsethief Creeks, in the Windermere district.

Mr. Cass, one of the owners of the Canal Flat claim, a copper proposition, is pushing on development work. Many locations have been made at Ottertail, and some splendid ore has been brought in from there. The bonding of the Silver Cup for \$42,000 is reported.

The new company which has taken over the Field claims, is expected to start work in a week or so.

E. A. HAGGEN.

The Klondyke Excitement.

AFTER making due allowance for what may be called the pardonable exaggeration of newspaper writers, there can be no doubt that the Klondyke strike is a great one, rivaling, if not exceeding in richness and extent any of the famous gold discoveries of the past—California, Australia, South Africa, or our own Cariboo. The reports of this magnificent discovery in

Canadian territory have, ere this, been spread to the ends of the earth, and next season's sun will shine on men of all countries, greedily searching for the precious dust in the region of the Yukon and its tributaries. Meantime it is estimated that twenty thousand men will start for the new diggings within the next month.

The fascination of placer mining for gold is proverbial—it takes hold of men in all the walks of life, and this Klondyke excitement has, in a few days, travelled farther and aroused more attention than the magnificent record of West Kootenay, which for the past six months shows an amount produced very nearly equal to the whole production of last year, namely four millions of dollars. An announcement of this kind, backed up by official returns, will fall on deaf ears; while an unauthentic newspaper paragraph stating that John Smith arrived in town with a coal oil can full of nuggets startles the world and spreads the gold fever in all directions.

The reason of this is simple. A placer claim can be worked by any healthy man, skilled or unskilled, without capital, and the reward (if any) is immediate. A quartz mine requires skill, capital and time before any return can be hoped for. The placer mine, therefore, attracts the multitude, while the lode mine is only of use to the capitalist.

But the placer mine, however rich, is immediately worked out by the swarms of men who rush in, and the booming prosperity of the region is short lived. Then, when the pan and rocker days are over, the capitalist continues the business with miles of ditches and pipe lines, but the number of hands needed to manipulate his "giants" is small, and the glory has departed from the diggings before he makes his appearance. But to-day the "flush times" lie ahead, the fever is spreading to all points of the compass, and the enterprising and experienced managers of transportation companies on the coast are promptly rising to the occasion. Steamers, old and new, are being furnished up for the northern route, and others, suitable for river navigation, designed and built with all possible dispatch.

In view of the fact that the new diggings lie so far north the suffering among inexperienced and poorly equipped prospectors will be very great. Though repeatedly warned to prepare for an intensely cold climate, and a wild unsettled country, a large proportion of those going in will have little to fall back upon should they fail to "strike it rich." They will, then, be obliged to work for wages, or get those who are better provided to help them out. This, however, should be borne in mind, that, though wages on the Klondyke were \$10 or \$15 per day at the date of last advices, they will speedily decline on the arrival of a large number of men; and it will not be surprising if many have to work for their board before the winter is over.

Among the number setting out for the Yukon will be men who never saw a gold pan or cooked at a camp fire—clerks, lawyers, doctors, and men of all trades and profession; but, inasmuch as it is luck rather than knowledge of mining that brings success, each tenderfoot now packing his valise doubtless believes that it will be the other fellows who will get left; but the cold fact remains that for each one who makes a lucky strike there will be many who will toil in vain. Compared to the swarm of men going in the area of rich ground so far discovered is very small and has all been staked. It will therefore be necessary to spread