

been made, but working with the most primitive appliances, individual miners in many instances had recovered by sluicing and hydraulicing, from one hundred and fifty to three hundred ounces of gold ere the season closed. A still more satisfactory tribute to the hydraulicing potentialities of this field is the recent acquisition of ground there by Californian syndicates, whose representatives have in every case been experienced hydraulic engineers from that State.

The completion of the telegraph line to Dawson City is a matter of much moment, particularly to mining companies operating in the Yukon; though the benefit will be considerably enhanced when the connection is made between Ashcroft and Bennett. Thanks largely to the exertions of Mr. Valteau, Gold Commissioner for the Omineca district, the route of the new line from Quesnelle, is, we understand, to take a different course from that originally considered, and the old telegraph trail as surveyed over thirty years ago by the Western Union Company, is in consequence to be re-opened. Thus the Omineca, as well as the Atlin district, will enjoy, ere long (the advantages of telegraphic communication with the commercial centres. What this will mean to mine-operators in Omineca may, to a certain extent, be estimated, when it is stated that in the case of a break-down of machinery, an order for replacing parts when sent through the ordinary mail channels, not infrequently is from a month to six weeks in transit. Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to learn that preparations are now being made by the Department of Public Works at Ottawa for the early commencement of work on this important undertaking.

The Lenora mine at Mount Sicker is an exceedingly promising prospect, but there is, at present, no warrant for the hysterically boomistic reports which have been appearing of late in the daily papers concerning this "wonderful mine." For example, what could be more utterly absurd than the following paragraph from the *Colonist*, having reference to the contract entered into by the Mount Sicker Company to consign a thousand tons of ore per month to the Van Anda smelter:

"There is enough ore in sight in the Lenora mine to continue this arrangement for an indefinite period. To make a start with, there are 1,500 tons on the dump. The amount of ore in sight in the chute no-body has attempted to estimate; it is too enormous to even make a guess at."

Mining engineers do not "guess at" the amount of ore in sight in a mine; the methods employed for arriving at such a calculation being, as a rule, of a somewhat more precise character. But the paragraph is a particularly fine instance of the ludicrous unreliability of the daily press when dealing with mining affairs in this country. Meanwhile, the policy adopted by Mr. Croft, manager of the Mount Sicker and B.C. Development Company, of shipping comparatively large quantities of ore from the Lenora mine at the present stage of its development, is certainly open to criticism; though the high price copper now commands, and a specially advantageous arrangement with the Van Anda smelter, may serve to justify the course pursued, by the Lenora management.

The shareholders of the late, lamented Golden Cache Mines Company, or rather those of them who

have taken advantage of the new owners' offer, may yet perhaps have cause for gratulation. If we accept a recent report on this Lillooet property by the Toronto engineer, Prof. Montgomery, who recently examined the Golden Cache and adjoining claims at the instance of a Toronto syndicate there is yet hope that this ill-starred property may be profitably operated. According to Prof. Montgomery, while "there is practically no ore of commercial value in sight" in the Golden Eagle mine itself, on the adjoining claims known as the Monarch, Ample, Whale and Gladstone, and which, by-the-way, the Golden Cache Company had, we understand, purposed to acquire, are exceedingly promising properties, the value of the ore in sight here (about 1000,000 tons) being placed, after allowing for loss in reduction, at \$960,000, or \$460,000 when the cost of mining and milling is deducted. Prof. Montgomery concludes his report as follows:

"In making these estimates I have proceeded in the usual way, and while doing so I have been quite well aware that the possibilities of these properties are greater and that there is even a probability that there are 150,000 tons of pay ore in sight at the present time, but I considered it safe and proper to give 100,000 tons as my estimate of the quantity of ore in sight, and \$460,000 as the total profit, after paying for the mining and reducing and all necessary expenses incidental thereto. When I make these statements I make statements that could not truthfully be made at any one time in reference to many mining properties. There are but few indeed that can show \$1,000,000 worth of ore at one time. I have endeavoured to remove all possible factors tending to exaggeration or uncertainty, and yet there remains an immense quantity of ore of good paying grade, therefore, I have formed the opinion that the Monarch, Ample, Gladstone and Whale constitute a mining property of great value, and I have no hesitation in recommending that this property be operated. With regard to the Golden Cache I would recommend that it be prospected with a view to finding a sufficient amount of pay ore. There is enough evidence to justify this recommendation, and especially as there are a good compressor and drill upon the ground ready for such work, but, understanding that the new owners of the Golden Cache property are also the owners of the Monarch, Ample, Whale and Gladstone, I think it would be well for the present to devote all capital and energy to the working of these last-named properties, in which there is a large quantity of ore in hand, and leave the prospecting of the Golden Cache to later on."

It is to be hoped, both for the sake of the original shareholders, who have acquired shares in the new company, and also in the interests of mining in Lillooet that Prof. Montgomery's very favourable opinion regarding the value of these properties may be justified by substantial returns from the mines themselves.

Apropos of the close-down of the Tangier mine at Albert Canyon, a correspondent from Revelstoke somewhat vainly enquires: "Why do English companies (oh, yes, I'm an Englishman, but this only makes me more ashamed of the asses sent out by O'ld Country companies to represent important interests) mismanage their properties in B.C. so persistently? It's the rule and not the exception. They pay well enough generally to get good, sensible men. Then