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MINING NEWS.

CAPE NOME.

What Beach Diggings Yield.

Mr. Hector McRae, while in San Francisco met from 75 to 100 miners and prospectors, who came in on the steamship Roanoake from Cape Nome. Some of them," he said, "were formerly of Kootenay and were old friends of Mr. McRae's. They stated on this steamer there was brought down about \$1,000,000 in gold and drafts. Lindeberg, a Norwegian, who came out with the reindeer for the United States government from Lapland two years ago, acknowledged to have the best claims on the five principal creeks. Mr. Lindeberg brought down in dust and drafts close to \$600,000. His secretary, Frank Sanders, tells some marvellous stories about the country. Lindeberg took out in Glacier creek with six men working 16 days, \$86,000.

"C. D. Lane, a well known California mining man who spent the season there, and invested about \$300,000 in mining prospects, took out 400 pounds of gold. The population of Nome during the summer season, ranged from 4,000 to 4,500 people. Over 3,000, however, left before the close of navigation, about the 20th of October. The majority of the prospectors who went in there had but little money at the start, but did very well on beach rocking. The government reserve of 60 feet on the beach precludes the staking of claims, but gives an opportunity to new comers to earn a decent grub stake. They made from \$10 to \$50 per day on the beach claims. The average earnings of good men working the beach ground were about \$1,000 per month, and in one case a party who had a centrifugal pump on the beach cleaned up \$300 per day, working from three to four men. After every storm these men claim that the ground can be reworked as the beach there is shallow and sandy and gravelly for about a mile and a half out.

"As an evidence that the gold can be worked by a dredging plant one of Lindeberg's party told me that after raising the anchor of the Roanoake 42 cents was panned out from the dirt and gravel which was found sticking to the blades. On the beach claims there is no stripping whatever, as everything is shovelled into the rockers and flumes. About three feet from the surface there is a plastic clay which also carries fairly good values, but it is under this in the ruby and black sands where are found the rich streaks, which are from five to six inches in width. Some of this rich stuff goes as high as \$200 to the pan. About 30 sacks of black sand were sent to the Selby smelting works in San Francisco and gave assay values of over \$100 per ton. Back of the beach the whole country is covered

with tundra, a green moss, which is green all the year round. This is used by the natives as a substitute for food when they have nothing else to eat. They claim that after it is boiled it is very succulent and nourishing. This tundra, of course, is frozen solid during the winter season.

"From June until the end of October it rains almost incessantly and makes traveling overland very unpleasant. The prospector wears 'muckluks,' a long moccasin, which reaches to the hips. This is made out of seal-skin. They are both light and waterproof and cost only \$4 per pair. The up-to-date prospecting outfits have steam launches with draft of about 30 inches. These are used for running north and exploring the creeks and inlets to be found in that direction. The auriferous beach has been worked for 28 miles in length, but it has proven to extend for about 100 miles. Fuel for these launches in the shape of coal can be purchased very cheaply in summer; that is, at the rate of \$100 per ton. There is considerable driftwood, but not sufficient for the use of the residents of Cape Nome.

The winter sets in in November and is very severe. Mr. Lane's nephew, Mr. Price, and 12 others, wintered there last year and experienced terrific hardships, the thermometer going down as low as 68 degrees below zero. To make matters worse they have terrific storms and piercing winds off the cape. About 1500 people are wintering there now and these have to depend upon about 1,000 tons of coal sent in by an English syndicate for fuel during the winter. The price asked during the winter is \$125 per ton. Game and fish are fairly plentiful and seal blubber can be had at all times from the natives. From St. Michaels over the ice is 800 miles, but the trip is very perilous. A good many men who attempted to go in last winter over the ice have never been heard of since.

"The trading companies have made handsome profits on the cargoes of supplies sent in during the summer. The trade is controlled by the Alaska Commercial company, the North America Trading Company and the Alaska Exploration Company. The last named company had completely sold out its stock by the middle of last month and the business was in the hands of the first two companies named. Mr. Julian Liebes, of the Alaska Exploration Company, told me that they expect to have two ocean steamers of about 3,500 tons each, on the route next summer. The other two companies will have four or five more and Mr. Lane is negotiating for a 5,000 ton steamer. They all estimate a big rush and are figuring on carrying in from 40,000 to 50,000 people after the opening of navigation in May next year. Behring sea opens about the middle of that month and some times a week or ten days later.

"The Alaska Exploration Company is a British corporation, of which the chairman is Mr. Simon Simonds of London. The firm of Liebes & Co., of San Francisco, are its agents in America. This company purchases 90 per cent of its goods in Canada. It buys its hams, canned goods, clothing and mining supplies in Eastern Canada, and they are fresh and of the best quality. The company has stores in Dawson, Skagway and Cape Nome, and the miners who came in on the Roanoake say that it treats them much better than the other two companies.

"The fact that miners do not have to pay royalties to the government and the accessibility of the diggings by comfortable steamers, no doubt, will be great inducements to gold seekers. Among all the men I talked to I did not run across one disappointed man. The camp is well protected with a company of United States regulars and good law and order is maintained," concluded Mr. McRae.

THE CARIBOO DISTRICT.

Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 28.—Cariboo has come to the front during the last two years

until now the country is almost as celebrated as a gold-producing district as it was in the sixties. There was a time between the eras of placer and hydraulic diggings, that the name of Cariboo was its only magic, but this year the district will have a surprisingly large output, well up to a million dollars.

There are three or four companies operating extensive hydraulic plants. New machinery has been taken in this year in large quantities, and the section around Quesnelle has been one of the busiest of the mining districts. A few days ago the first shipment of bullion of the clean-up of the Cariboo-hydraulic was brought down to the Canadian Pacific Railway line, and it is expected that when the official figures for the season are given out, the result on this property alone will be about \$200,000, and probably more.

The company has been working steadily for several years, under the management of J. B. Hobson of Montreal, who is known as one of the best hydraulic engineers in the country. They have a very complete plant, excellent water power, and have drifted in from 400 to 600 feet in several directions. Their bullion includes a couple of thousand dollars' worth of nuggets, some of them worth as much as \$100 each, that have been taken out during the season's operations.

DOMINION CONSOLIDATED.

Mr. George H. Maurer, president of the Dominion Consolidated Mines Company Limited, a property in the Fairview district of British Columbia, in which considerable Montreal capital is interested, arrived in town Tuesday from British Columbia. Mr. Maurer supplied some information in regard to the mine which should be interesting. A six hundred foot shaft has been sunk and a tunnel of 1,975 feet run off from it. A six drill compressor plant has been installed for development purposes, which will do duty equal to the hand work of 84 men, but when the mine is in full running order the ore will be taken from the tunnel. It is the intention to shortly install a 300-ton plant, which will then be kept running night and day. The company have had the property inspected by the well known mining engineer, T. H. Trethewey, and his report is a most favorable one. The company is incorporated under the old law of British Columbia, which enacts a close supervision of the property. Every dollar so far invested has gone into the mine for development purposes, and the management feel that more has been done in proportion to the actual capital invested toward the development of the property than on many other mines. The main vein has a width of 16 feet at the surface, and at a depth of 100 feet shows a width of 20 feet. Another vein, three hundred feet west of the main one, shows a width of seven feet. The capitalization is moderate, \$500,000, and the ore averages \$5.25 per ton, and the claim is that it can be mined and milled inside of \$3 per ton, leaving a good profit. The ore is a low grade one, but the immense body of it enables it to be worked cheaply. The annual report shows a surplus of \$5,000. The annual meeting has been adjourned to the third day of January in order to have the large Montreal shareholders represented on the directorate.

COPPER CLAIMS SOLD.

Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 23.—Mr. L. J. Boswitz, of Victoria, some time since purchased the Britannia group of seven claims on Howe Sound, and expended some \$40,000 on their development. The representative of one of the wealthiest Montana copper interests has now purchased them after careful investigation, the price paid being in the neighborhood of \$200,000, Mr. Boswitz retaining an interest in the property.