

for clearing the right of way for the Tamarac Tramway and inside of two months it will be in operation and bring ore to the railroad for shipment to the smelter.

SLOCAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

If the prospective value of any field of operations is to be judged by the efforts put forth to open it up, then the Lake District is certainly entitled to well merited attention, for no fewer than four important waggon roads have recently been completed. It is encouraging to note that they are not confined to any one section, being pretty well distributed over the known mineral area. First of all we have the road up Silver Mountain from New Denver, then that to the Hewitt connecting with Silverton and at the foot of the lake two more up Springer and Lemon Creeks respectively, the former tapping the rich district in which the Arlington is situated, the latter serving to open up a part of the country which may eventually belie the appellation conferred upon the "Silvery Slocan" by becoming famous as a gold producer. Public works of this description are not without significance and in this instance they merely indicate that the initial prospective stage—though prolonged until many had given up hope of ever arriving at anything better—is passed and that mining on a legitimate basis is begun in earnest with something substantial to show in the nature of returns. The reproach that Slocan Lake properties lived on the reputation of those situated around Sandon is heard no more, for with an output of 3,500 tons already this year which should easily be increased to 5,000, worth roughly half a million dollars, by the first of January, and such producing mines as the Bosun, Enterprise, Arlington and innumerable others which have long been awaiting transportation facilities, there is every confidence in the future.

I have more than once in these columns drawn attention to the statement that although the Slocan is primarily a silver-lead camp, the possibilities in the way of a limited gold production and even of a small copper output are not altogether to be despised.

Putting aside the fact that some few of the galena ores carry gold in quantity which renders it a more or less valuable accessory constituent, it is well known that in the majority of the dry quartzose ores gold plays a no inconsiderable part in meeting the treatment charges, in addition to which we have the Lemon Creek district before mentioned where gold values largely predominate, occurring very often in a condition which will admit of their being successfully milled on the spot. It is not, however, so generally understood that there exists on what is known as Red Mountain lying between Silverton and Ten Mile a territory in which gold is found, not associated with silver as one would naturally expect, but more or less intimately disseminated through the baser sulphides of iron and copper; in other words, closely resembling the Trail and Boundary product. It is this which induced Mr. Graves, so well known in the latter district in connection with the Granby smelter, to undertake the development of the Rockland, a large proposition of this nature with an excellent surface showing. Without committing myself on the subject, I may say that so well have preliminary operations pro-

gressed that government assistance in the construction of a waggon road to the property has already been tendered. Like many another possibility, however, the development of the mining industry along these lines in the Slocan may be merely a dream for the future, but one at any rate which it is well worth keeping an eye on.

The chief subject of interest around Sandon at the present time is the contemplated starting of the machinery at the Ivanhoe concentrator. This mill, though differing but slightly except in the matter of daily capacity from previous efforts in this direction, marks another step forward in the utilization of the immense bodies of lower grade ore which it is impossible to ship profitably under present conditions. I may be allowed to reiterate in closing what I have many times before insisted on, that the permanent progress of the Slocan in common with all mining districts, though in a lesser degree perhaps than many, depends as much upon the proper economic preliminary treatment of the poorer classes of ore as upon the development of the richer and higher grade chutes, and we cannot hope until such time arrives to see the Slocan attain to its maximum output.

THE RUNDLE POWDER THAWER.

BY far the greater percentage of mine accidents are due to the careless handling of high explosives, and more particularly to the dangerous methods so commonly employed by miners to thaw frozen powder. Hence the use of a simple and inexpensive device such as the Rundle powder thawer is to be most strongly recommended. For several years this thawer has been extensively used in the iron and copper mines of Michigan with wonderful success. It is constructed of galvanized iron, is strong, durable, compact and convenient. The tubes, twenty in number, are entirely surrounded by water, thus keeping the powder in constant working order. As these tubes are open at both ends the powder is less confined and there is no danger of a part of the stick being left in the tube. Owing to the fact that the powder lies on its side there is no danger of its melting and running into a mass as is often the case where the powder stands on end, as in some types of thawers. Where conveniences are such that warm water can be poured in from the start, a single candle snuff three inches long will hold the temperature for from six to eight hours. This warmer holds one and one-half gallons of water, and tests show that two three-inch snuffs will heat the water to 120 degrees. One valuable feature is the fact that in order to place the powder in the tubes the cover must be removed and this exposes the water reservoir, hence there is no excuse for not knowing the amount of water contained in the thawer. The device was introduced into the West by the Hendrie & Bolthoff Manufacturing Co., of Denver, Colorado, who among other testimonials received the following letter from Mr. H. A. Lee, the Commissioner of Mines for Colorado:

"Gentlemen:—The Rundle powder warmer, left by you with this Department, has been subjected to series of tests under conditions both favourable and unfavourable. As a result, I can most heartily recommend it to all consumers of nitro-powder compounds. It reduces the risks incurred in thawing frozen powder to the minimum and its universal use