

ers accomplish their ends by circumvention and delay. He possesses the military instinct in a strong degree, and while strategy and tact are essentially common to politics and the science of warfare, they nevertheless belong to different orders and call into play different qualities of leadership. In one case the commander commands, and the game is in his own hands through instruments of his will; in the other, as a leader of men bound together by the ties of party allegiance alone, he has to play skilfully on the chords of fealty, party interest, and all the other delicate strings which control human conduct in a public capacity. To do this is to discard the ethics which pertain to and govern the success of the general in arms.

Col. Baker is studious, courteous and refined. Before accepting office under the Crown he was a rancher in the Kootenay district, where, as before stated, he owns the well-known Cranbrooke Estate. This is some thousands of acres in extent, and to the heart of an Englishman appeals as an ideal property, where to reside is to be monarch of all you survey, and to survey is to behold a pleasing prospect. On the open portions a straight furrow of four miles can be turned without a break or bend of any kind. It is a beautiful stretch of agricultural land, and some day, when the C.P.R. has built its short line of railway through the Crow's Nest Pass and the B.C. Southern is an accomplished fact, the Cranbrooke Estate will be a property not only of great value, but will be in the centre of a great producing area—agricultural and mineral. In the south-eastern part of Kootenay, where Cranbrooke is situated, lie immense beds of coal and petroleum and rich deposits of silver ore.

Notes from Nelson.

AT the Hall Mines Smelter there is a perfect swarm of men, all hard at work striving to get the works ready to start up by the end of the first week in October. The new chimney stack is up about seventy-five feet and has a hundred more to go. It stands on a commanding bluff and will be a conspicuous object in the landscape for miles around. The furnace itself has been entirely remodelled. Previously the crucible stood upon the ground, and when the furnace was blown out, it was found that the molten metal had eaten through the bottom of it and had found its way down deep into the solid brick foundation on which it stood. Nothing of the kind can happen now. The crucible stands on a movable car which runs on rails. When in position four powerful jack screws keep it tight up against the lower edge of the water-jacket. Whenever necessary the feed above can be temporarily stopped, the screws relaxed and the whole thing wheeled out into the open air to be re-lined or repaired. Part of the reverberatory furnace is already erected and the excavations for the new furnace are nearly completed. The strike on the C.P.R., if it should come off, will not affect the Hall mines, unless it is very prolonged, as that railway brings them nothing except their iron ore and lime, and of these the store bins hold a plentiful supply.

The shares of the company are quoted nominally at \$8.50, but there are no sellers at that price, but

plenty of buyers. The resumption of operations with the consequent publishing of returns will doubtless send them up again to a respectable figure.

There is some excitement over the discovery of rich veins of galena at the head of Nine Mile Creek. This description conveys little to the ordinary reader, but the locality is nearly on a line drawn from the foot of Slocan Lake to Balfour, at the mouth of Kootenay Outlet. This is the "height of land," or divide between the Kootenay and Slocan watersheds. Several creeks rise near it. Of these Coffee Creek and the South Fork of Kaslo River fall into the Kootenay Lake; Nine Mile, called also Kokanee and Yuill Creek, flows into the Kootenay Outlet, just above Nelson and Lemmon Creek flows westward into the Slocan River. The new find is on a ridge which lies towards Nelson, and the tramway of the Silver King is plainly visible from it.

The excitement on the Salmon River still continues and has extended itself to Wild Horse Creek, a tributary flowing in from the east. Numbers of men are in there and numbers of claims are being recorded. No less than 150 were recorded at the Nelson office in the week ending October 3rd, of which the chief number were in the Salmon River country.

The lessees of the hydraulic claim on Forty-Nine Creek have finished work for the season. The result of their operations is not stated, but they express themselves satisfied and assert that they look forward to the resumption of operations next year.

There is a growing rivalry between the Slocan and Trail Creek as to which shall be the favourite field for investment. Both have many valuable points, and though Rossland with Spokane at its back has temporarily pulled Trail Creek into great prominence it is not to be doubted that the solid advantages of the Slocan will pull that district up into, at any rate an equal place with her more showy sister. Rossland ore contains gold. The Slocan has only silver. Yet a ton of the latter is worth in solid coin quite two tons of the former, and it is more easily mined. Without alluding to the Le Roi, War Eagle and other established properties whose names will at once occur to the reader, the mining engineer shakes his head over the continuity of Trail Creek leads, but he has no doubt at all about the true fissure veins of the Slocan. The public, however, is capricious and at present its fashion is gold; it will have nothing to do with silver. This public, however, is not that of the professional mining man, or the shrewd investor who follows his advice, but the yelling frantic public that squanders its money right and left just as the fashion of the moment takes it anywhere, in Europe, Asia, Africa or America. This ought to be, and undoubtedly is, the opportunity for the knowing man learned in mining. It is a fact that valuable silver properties that will pay from the start can be purchased in the Slocan to-day at the price of a mere prospect at Trail Creek into which thousands would have to be chucked before they would return a cent. It must not be understood that it is the writer's intention to belittle Rossland. It would be absurd to do so. There are many properties there of the highest value, but if investors would pay as much attention to the Slocan