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MINING NOTES.

A magnificent showing of ore has been developed in the Monte Cristo. For some time past the lower tunnel has had a streak of ore on the hanging wall side from which very good values were occasionally obtained. A few days ago a crosscut was started. Nine feet of solid ore has been broken through without the hanging wall having been found. The drillings from a five-foot hole on Thursday assayed \$17.35. The general improvement in assay returns leads the management to expect a big body of ore of paying grade. This crosscut is at a vertical depth of 300 feet.

The final payment on the Zilor was made yesterday and the property turned over to the company. As soon as the snow goes off the ground and the surface water has drained off development work will be resumed.

The showing of ore in the Kootenay mine is one of the marvels of the camp. The ore dumps are all full of ore which has been taken out in doing development and which cannot be moved away from the mine on account of the bad roads.

After the 1st of May work is to be resumed on the Cliff on a large scale and regular shipments will commence. The pay chute of ore has now been sufficiently developed to make big shipments possible.

An upraise to the surface has just been completed from the drift in the Iron Mask. It is in good ore all the way, the width varying from three to five feet. Stopping will be commenced shortly and much larger shipments may be expected.

The R. E. Lee has been pumped out and after long inactivity work is about to be resumed on it.

The Orphan Boy has been sold by the sheriff at the instance of the president of the company, whose conduct in the whole matter may be justifiable but has certainly been most peculiar.

It is rumored that the sale of the Commander is practically an accomplished fact. And it is reported from London that a company is being formed to purchase the Jumbo.

The United States is still considering the question of placing a duty on copper ore. By superior economic mining, smelting and refining the United States can compete with the cheap labor of Spain in the production of copper, and already produces far more than is consumed at home. The producers have unanimously protested against the proposed duty, which will divert raw material from United States furnaces for the finished product, of which the United States has a splendid market. Such a state of affairs reads like a diagnosis of dementia, but it is a fact.

The City of Spokane has been closed down and the property under bond by the Yale-Lilloet & Fraser River Company at Waterloo has been abandoned. This company shows a brilliant if short career of reckless waste and extravagance. Its inception and management have been a standing menace to the best interests of British Columbia. Messrs. Horne-Payne, F. S. Barnard and Forbes G. Vernon have a good deal to answer for. The early disappearance of their names as in any sense representing British Columbia mining is a likely and desirable consummation.

The War Eagle has now more ore blocked out than could be shipped at the present rate in a year. The mine looks better today than it ever did. It is very unlikely that for some time any more ore will be shipped than is taken out in course of development.

The time will come when every big mine in Rossland will have its own matting plant in operation. The large capital required in operating a customs smelter is chiefly used up in maintaining and paying for reserves of ore. The actual construction and operation of a smelter is not out of the reach of any mine capable of producing, say, 100 tons of ore a day.

As the cost of production decreases in arithmetical proportion the number of tons of ore brought above the pay limit increases in geometrical proportion. Cost of production is very high in Trail Creek just now. The reduction of this by say 25 per cent. would mean the multiplication of the output many times. That is why those interested in the camp have such boundless confidence in its future.

The Le Roi mine is now shipping over 1000 tons of ore a week. It is the first mine in British Columbia to get over the 100-ton a day limit and stay there steadily. The Le Roi is in the running to make the greatest gold mine in the world. It is not the greatest now, nor even one of them, but it is not anything like opened up yet.

An item in an Eastern paper mentions a contract as having been let to deliver 5000 tons of ore from the North Star in East Kootenay during a period of three months, and speaks of it as one of the biggest contracts of the kind ever let in British Columbia. There must be a mistake somewhere.

With the output of ore steadily increasing and the appearance of the mines in all sections of the camp steadily improving, the present dulness in speculative stocks is bound eventually to have a good effect. Prices have very little further to fall before the heavy weight investor comes in and has something to say. It only needs the advertisement of the fact that prices are lower in Trail Creek to bring lots of men back who have been here and went away without investing.

CRIPPLE CREEK PRODUCTION.

Mining men in Kootenay should find much to encourage in the figures of Cripple Creek's output as given in the Engineering and Mining Journal, which says:

"Ore shipments from Cripple Creek continue to increase and in March for the first time the values exceeded \$1,000,000 in a single month. This total was made up by 6,459 tons smelting ore averaging \$89 per ton, and 17,136 tons milling ore averaging \$25. The total shipments were therefore 23,595 tons of ore averaging \$42 per ton, and the total value \$1,003,251. It is to be noted that this large amount was secured chiefly by an increase in the quantity of low-grade ore, which goes to the mills. These ores in March furnished 71.4 per cent. of the tonnage and 42.7 per cent. of the values, though their average grade was so much less than that of the smelting ores.

"For the quarter ending with March there was a total production reported of 59,485 tons of ore, 20,461 tons being smelting ore and 39,024 tons milling ore. The total value of the former was \$1,657,961, and of the latter \$996,400, making the full value \$2,654,381 for the quarter. This growth of the camp is very gratifying."

Does not the output of Kootenay compare favorably with that of the Colorado camp?

AN OUTSIDE VIEW.

There is reason to expect a notable activity in the early summer among the new Canadian gold-fields. Already a large number of miners are gathered at Northport (Wash.) Rossland and Fort Steele, in British Columbia, waiting the disappearance of the snow before commencing vigorous prospecting. It will be three or four weeks before this very mountainous region is open to the explorer. Similarly Rat Portage, the distributing point for the gold-fields of Western Ontario, is crowded with eager gold seekers, and it seems certain that the picturesque Lake of the Woods will this summer undergo a very rapid development. The Rainy River District, to the southeast, is also the objective point of several serious enterprises. Thus amid the general impetus given during recent years to the gold-mining industry of the world, the Dominion of Canada is destined to win a more commanding position than it has hitherto done.—Eng. & Mining Journal.

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