

down last year, but business is very fairly good. The monthly pay roll is now nearly \$100,000 with every prospect of a steady increase week by week.

Notwithstanding the creditable showing made by the Le Roi mine for the past five months the stock has remained weak on the London market. The manager, Mr. Mackenzie, meanwhile positively asserts that the property is not being "gophered." That the output is a representative one and that so far as he is concerned there is absolutely nothing in the situation to warrant the depreciation of the stock. To understand the attempted manipulation, it is necessary to recall the attack on the Le Roi last spring, at the general meeting of shareholders, when a strong effort was made to force the amalgamation of Le Roi and Le Roi No. 2 on a very favourable basis for the latter. The attempt failed as did the move to reinstate Mr. Bernard Macdonald as general manager. It very nearly, however, succeeded and those responsible for the scheme have since done their best to boom Le Roi No. 2 and "bear" Le Roi. Lately the Le Roi people have taken a more active part in the fight and it is current gossip in Rossland that Mr. J. H. Mackenzie will shortly assume the control of all the original Whittaker Wright flotations in Rossland, comprising Le Roi No. 2, Rossland Great Western and the Kootenay Mines. Mr. Mackenzie states that he is ignorant of the move, if there is one, but declines to contradict the statement or to be quoted as doing so. At present there are strong indications that Mr. William Thompson and Mr. Macdonald will shortly retire from the positions they hold here in favour of Mr. Mackenzie.

MINING IN THE KOOTENAYS.

(By a Special Correspondent.)

NELSON District.—Shipments from this district show a fair increase and the outlook is, on the whole, promising. Very satisfactory reports have been received of development at the Silver Glance mine. Four cars of ore were recently shipped to the smelter at Everett, netting the owners a profit of about \$12,000. Work on the government wagon road up Porcupine Creek is progressing rapidly, the upper end being in the neighbourhood of the Union Jack mine. As soon as the road is available for traffic, the machinery and building material for the Union Jack electric plant will be hauled up. A force of men is now at work on the flume and on the construction of the dam and power house. Good progress is being made with the tramway to connect the Venus with the Athabasca mill, and the indications are that it will be ready for operation by the middle of next month. Meanwhile preparations are being made at the mine and it is hoped the full capacity of the mill will be taxed, so soon as transportation facilities are provided. The Chicago National Development Company is pushing forward development work on the Carthage group, on the north fork of Wild Horse Creek, and two tunnels have been run on the vein, a distance of 488 and 135 feet respectively. Work is now being directed to crosscutting the vein at a much lower level, and a third tunnel is being driven for that purpose, being now in about seventy feet. A fine strike has been made on the Double Standard claim adjoining the Hunter V. mine. A considerable body of ore has been discovered near the surface rich in native silver.

Kaslo and Slocan.—The proposals made by Minneapolis capitalists recently and which at the time attracted so much attention, have as yet not materialized. The option the syndicate had secured has been allowed to lapse. However, the general opinion is that the projects in view will be in abeyance for a short time only. The Monitor has so far this year shipped 1,000 tons of ore running 127 ozs.

silver and \$9 in gold, or an average of \$70 per ton. It has about thirty men on its pay-roll. It is turning out one of the best paying mines in the Slocan.

Ainsworth.—Reported discoveries of valuable iron deposits in the vicinity of Crawford Bay on Kootenay Lake, have been rather frequent of late. The past week two prospectors located a claim and state that the lead is 100 feet wide, and the ore on the surface is 30 per cent. iron. The strike of the lead is north and south, which is different from the hematite iron leads discovered to the southward of Crawford Bay, which run east and west.

Boundary.—Work has been resumed at the B.C. at Eholt with a force of 70 men. An average daily shipment of 140 tons of ore is now made to the Boundary Falls smelter. Mr. W. Work Slater, a director of the Jewel Gold Mines, Limited, is hopeful that a contract will be closed for shipping 20,000 to 30,000 tons. The Jewel has been idle for some time, but it is too good a mine to be allowed to remain unworked.

The Lardeau.—The Calumet and British Columbia Gold Mines, Limited, which was largely promoted by Messrs. Rosenberger and Musselman, of Nelson, was recently floated to acquire and work the Eva mine in this district. The capital of the company is \$500,000, divided into shares of one dollar each, and a first issue of 100,000 shares was, it is said, over-subscribed, as was also a second allotment of the same number of shares which were offered at a 100 per cent. premium. The Eva is thought to be a very promising mine and is now developed by 2,000 feet of tunnelling and shaft work. The new company has purchased from the Camborne Townsite Company ten acres of land on Pool Creek, on which to erect stamp mills and power plant. A tramway is also to be built from Pool Creek to the mine. The Nettie L. is about ready to commence operations. The company has recently installed a compressor plant and has also let a contract for 1,100 cords of wood to be delivered at the mine this winter. Mr. A. C. Garde, manager of the Payne mine, has taken an option on the Linsay and Knob Hill groups of mineral claims on Canyon Creek, in the Trout Lake district. A force of men will be immediately put to work and shipments will most likely commence at an early date. The bonds call for payments of \$30,000 and \$15,000 respectively. The properties were owned by Messrs. P. A. Lingren and Erickson. It is reported that the owners of the Lucky Jack group, on Lexington Mountain, have given an option on their property for \$90,000. This should add another good property to the roll of those working on this gold belt. A rich free gold strike was recently made on the Beatrice mine, at a deeper point than the previous workings. The vein just found is from 10 to 15 feet wide and carries exceptionally good values. The recent discovery made on the Rossland-Criterion, owned and operated by the Ophir-Lade Syndicate, and the strike on the Beatrice, are additional evidences of the richness of the mines in this locality.

The Similkameen, Camp Hedley.—The owners of the Nickel Plate mine and group of mineral claims are proceeding with the construction of a tramway and water flume preparatory to installing a 60-stamp mill and concentrating plant. This mine and the several neighbouring mineral claims forming the group are situated on Nickel Plate Mountain, which lies toward the head and on the east watershed of Twenty-Mile Creek, a tributary of the Similkameen River. The mountain reaches an altitude of about 7,000 feet and it is pretty well covered with mineral locations, but little important development work has been done outside of that on the Nickel Plate group, the owners of which are understood to be Mr. M. K. Rodgers, of Seattle, who is the manager of the mine; Mr. John R. Toole, of Montana, and the estate of the late Marcus Daly. The Provincial mineralogist, who visited the property last year, thus refers to it in the published annual report for 1907 of the Minister of Mines of British Columbia; "Nickel Plate Camp may be put down as a gold comp. for, although some copper is found, the chief value lies in the gold, which seems to be associated with arsenopyrites, and does not appear to be found to any extent with the iron pyrites in the absence of arsenic. The rock formation of the mountain, from a hasty examination, appears to be composed of very highly altered sedimentaries interspersed with planes of igneous rocks—andesites, etc., which are so exposed as to produce the appearance of being bedded. It would appear as though on this property the ore body consisted of a highly silicified band or bed, now so much altered that its original character is obscured. The ore-bearing body on which the discovery was originally made outcrops on the face of the hill at an altitude of 6,300 feet, striking nearly horizontally along the hillside and dipping