

who sold at these figures received more than \$2.50 per share for their original holding. Mining men just down from Rossland report that the War Eagle and the Iron Mask are showing up well under development. It is said the owners of the War Eagle expect to push development work for two years before trying to pay dividends, and that they expect then to enter upon a long period of dividend paying.

At the Le Roi, Captain Hall, the superintendent, reports the lowest working level of this mine to be at a depth of 500 feet. The principal levels are at 350, 400, 450 and 500 ft., respectively, and the 600 ft. level will shortly be opened up. The shaft itself is a three compartment one, 4 x 5 ft. The great development began to show itself at the 300 and 400 ft. levels, but is more strongly visible in the 450 and 500 ft. levels. Mr. N. T. Trelgear is in immediate charge of the lower levels. From one of these drifts, commenced only a few weeks ago, ore has been shipped at the rate of 100 tons per day.

Ventilation is now good. The compressor runs 3 pumps, 2 hoists and 18 drills, all in connection with the workings of the mine. Calcite is particularly noticeable on the face of the west tunnel at the 500 ft. level, which is being extended toward the Big Bear claim owned by the Le Roi Company, and where is located the big compressor, the "Senator." This west tunnel is all in ore. First-class ore consists of nearly massive fine-grained pyrrhotite and copper pyrites, sometimes with a little magnetite or mispickel with more or less quartz and calcite. The value of this ore is given at \$53.05 net per ton. The bulk of the ore, however, is second class, and it runs from \$27.97 to \$40. The company employs 180 men, and it has a pay roll of \$15,000 per month. Since last September it has expended at least \$100,000 in building improvements and machinery, and at least a similar amount for labor. The Le Roi has already paid dividends amounting to \$450,000 to date. Its capital is represented by 500,000 shares at the par value of \$5 each, being a total of \$2,500,000.

#### NELSON.

Everything in this neighborhood seems pointing to prosperity; new residences and business blocks are rapidly being built, and everyone seems confident now that we have at last entered on a most successful period of our history—one that will be lasting. There is no "boom;" just going ahead quickly and substantially, which all reasonable people will admit is by far the better sign of permanence.

Perhaps the most favourable sign of all, is that the Pilot Bay smelter so long closed down has passed into the hands of the Omaha and Grant Co., who intend to re-open very shortly, and probably add another furnace or two. It was a most melancholy sight that your correspondent saw on a recent visit there. Good, well arranged machinery all going to ruin for want of use, and well built houses spoiling in the same fashion. It is a very good example, however, of what mismanagement and ignorance of smelting will bring the best made smelter to look like, and it might be well worth the while of some other people who think they can manage a smelting concern without the slightest knowledge of the matter, to take a lesson from it, "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" that lesson, and alter their methods accordingly.

Report says that the new owners do not intend to do much with the Blue Bell mine, which is a very low grade proposition, but to deal more with the Slocan and Ainsworth ores, which will no doubt help out the old Hot Springs camp considerably. The fact of starting another smelter will also materially assist Nelson itself, as that town will be the basis of supplies for a long time to come.

In Ainsworth itself, development work is being proceeded with steadily, and with a market for her ores within easy reach by water carriage to Pilot Bay, no doubt will very soon more than double her shipping, as it is the cost of the long haul to the States that renders much of the product unprofitable. Just give a low freight rate, and much more of the lower grade ore will prove a source of revenue.

Near Lemon creek, which, although in the Slocan district, is very commonly reached from Nelson, recent valuable strikes are reported, running well up in silver, although from the surface only, and it would be no matter of surprise if the more valuable yellow nickel were found to accompany its poor despised white consort.

The Athabasca group, on Toad mountain, has been steadily shipping ore to the Hall mines smelter, and sent down during July about 80 tons. This is a quartz proposition, carrying pyrites and a little galena, running quite rich enough in silver and gold to leave a comfortable margin of profit for the owners.

The Fern mine, near Hall creek, is also looking very well, and a 20-stamp mill is now in course of erection. Quite recently another lead was discovered, of very much decomposed quartz, that assays well in gold, which should add considerably to the value of the shares.

The Silver King group (Hall Mines Co.) is still in great form, and is turning out from 200 to 250 tons of smelting ore per day. This amount is necessary to keep the 200-ton blast furnace at the smelter working to its full capacity. The new furnace in question was blown in about the 31st July, and with the exception of the usual trifling details always accompanying the blowing in of a new furnace, has been working most successfully ever since, and shows a very considerable saving in fuel over the smaller one, which will very possibly be used for lead smelting in the near future. The manufacture of blister copper (as it is called; it is really of a much higher grade) is being proceeded with steadily, and it is in contemplation to add another reverberatory furnace for use on matte only, so as to quicken the production of the metal. The method employed is to crush and roast the matte from

the blast furnace (originally about 46 per cent. copper), then to smelt this crushed and roasted matte in the reverberatory, and produce "white metal," carrying about 60 to 65 per cent. copper. This white metal is again crushed and roasted, and smelted in the reverberatory into metallic copper. It may appear to some people that this arrangement might be altered somewhat with much advantage, but "every one to his taste."

I regret to say that Mr. Paul Johnson, the superintendent from the very beginning, has accepted a more important and valuable post in Mexico, and that the Hall Mines Company will shortly lose his services. A good superintendent, thoroughly familiar with all the strings, is hard to get, and in these days it is so much easier to lose money than to make it, even for smelting purposes, that Mr. Johnson's successor will have no soft snap for the first few months.

Some gentlemen from England, the Messrs. Wilson Bros., have quite lately bonded an important group of claims about nine miles from Nelson, known as the Last Chance group, near Cottonwood Lake, and have put a force of 10 or 12 men on to develop. The rock is white quartz, a very well-defined vein widening as it goes deeper, and carrying iron and copper pyrites with considerable gold and silver. Assays made right from the surface showed 10 per cent. copper, \$5 in gold, and considerable silver. The lead has a splendid location, and the ore could be most easily transferred to the railway, hardly more than a mile distant. If this turns out as well as it looks it will be another valuable assistance in building up the prosperity of our town.

The long looked for Crow's Nest Pass Railway has at last actually commenced, and is expected to be open in about two years throughout its whole length, though of course sections will be worked before that time. In addition to the Crow's Nest, the branch line from the Slocan Lake to the C.P.R., Nelson and Robson line is being pushed forward with all speed, and the engineer in charge hopes to have all in running order by the middle of October next. This line will be a great convenience, and should prove a very profitable branch of the C.P.R., but it is, of course, to the main line of the Crow's Nest that we must look for supplies of cheaper fuel. I have not seen any analyses of the coal from that district, but have been credibly informed that it is a very clean and first-rate coking coal. If so, it will be gladly welcomed by all smelting men.

A very strong company has been organized to utilize some of the power (hitherto wasted) at the Great Falls on the Kootenay river, between Nelson and Robson. These falls have been re-christened "Bonnington Falls," and a large force of men are now engaged there blasting rocks and preparing a site for a very large electrical plant, which, it is intended, will be powerful enough to provide sufficient current not only to light up all West Kootenay, but also to run smelters, or, at any rate, replace steam as the motive power in them. There is no question as to the *bona fides* of the company, though whether they will be able to accomplish all they expect, may perhaps be doubtful. At any rate it is a new departure, and will have nothing but a good effect on the district, and as such it is most welcome.

A rumor is current that a very fine ledge has been found on the Morning mountain (adjoining, or part of, Toad mountain), which runs as high as 200 oz. silver and \$20 in gold. It is very difficult to obtain the real facts of these statements; quite possibly they are correct, but prospectors' words, and indeed those of mine owners themselves, are not always to be implicitly relied on. However, in this instance, a great deal of work has been done on the claims, which would scarcely have been done if there had not been sufficient grounds for it, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the statement is true.

The Klondyke naturally attracts much attention here, but very few, indeed, have left for that slightly inhospitable region. Indeed, one has a good chance here as there to make some money, and does not have to pack a year's grub about with him or starve. But the furthest field is the greenest as usual, and certainly the idea of picking up nuggets and dust by the bucketful without machinery or capital, must be a great inducement to many.

It may be of interest to call attention to the Customs' revenue for July last; the total duty collected from the Nelson district being no less than \$30,723, and some odd cents, or about \$1,000 daily. The value of the ore exported is placed at \$288,625, and that of the matte at \$315,207, odd cents omitted. These figures appear to show conclusively that West Kootenay is all right, and as long as that is the case Nelson and district will share in the prosperity.

A. H. HOLDICH.

NELSON, 21st August, 1897.

VANCOUVER.

A big citizens' meeting, held in Victoria, has pronounced emphatically in favor of the future restriction of Yukon gold mining to British subjects, whilst also urging a big reduction of the proposed royalty charges. These are the sentiments undoubtedly of all British Columbians with few exceptions, and since the meeting the Victoria "Colonist," the Provincial Government organ of British Columbia, and on the whole the most influential newspaper in the province, has emphatically endorsed the same views editorially, and commended them for consideration to Ottawa. The "Colonist" however properly suggests that the restriction of future gold mining in the Yukon to British subjects should be accompanied by a confirmation of existing rights and contingent rights of American miners now in the Yukon; otherwise great injustice would be done, against which the United States might and would sturdily protest. Americans now in the Yukon should, it is urged, be registered and allowed full miners' rights, but future settlement