

INTERIOR INTELLIGENCE.

Gleanings From the Exchanges of the Upper Country.

KOOTENAY'S BIG TREASURE CHESTS
Prospectors Pouring in Rapidly—New Claims Staked on Every Day—Rich Samples Brought in—Development Work Being Done.

(Golden Era.)
The government dredge, which has been built here, was taken up the river this week.

Good copper ore, and an abundance of it, too, has been found, been struck on the Canal Flat copper mine.

Several prospectors have gone up the river this week. Gold mining is assuming vast proportions here.

There is a rush of gold seekers from Donald to Quartz Creek. We saw some very nice colors from that locality this week.

John McRae is still busy on the Jubilee Mountain taking out copper ore, which he intends shipping to England.

General mining reports are good throughout the camp and in consequence many people are coming in to investigate for themselves.

Work on the Wild Horse placer works is going along nicely. Mr. McVittie deserves credit for the work he is doing there. D. Griffith is also doing it fine in mining, so we hear.

We hear there is an agitation on foot to stop the Stoney Indians from coming to the shooting grounds up river. This sort of thing should be seen to without any delay. Another case for the authorities to be.

We had the pleasure of seeing some splendid looking concentrates from the splendid looking Hill mines this week. It is a fact that the mill is now running regularly and that the whole of the machinery is working like oil.

Mr. Dawson, C. E., is at Hector looking into the matter of introducing electricity for the purpose of obtaining power for hauling the trains from Field up the heavy grade of the big hill. Another electrician has also been here recently with Mr. Dawson for the same purpose.

Allan Granger came back from Fort Steele on Monday. He says that there is considerable activity in that camp and likely to continue. Up to date 72 records have been made for 1893, as against last year from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st there were 60. This great increase speaks well for the development in hand.

The Smelter Townsite company have come forward splendidly in connection with the hospital scheme now on foot here. They have not only given the erection of the building, but have also made an offer of twenty lots free. The only stipulation is that the selection is not to be made on Fourth avenue. Great praise is therefore due this company, as well as thanks from the public and the committee.

John E. Askwith, who has for such a long time been known as the owner of the Bobbie Burns gold mine, has returned this week from the coast, where he has succeeded in forming a syndicate, composed of some of the leading mining men in Victoria, with a capital of \$300,000. The usual legal formalities have to be gone through, after which active operations will take place on the mill, which is now in position on the mill.

(Kootenay Star.)
C. F. Blackburn, to whom the Great Northern was bonded last winter, has taken up the bond, paying down \$9,000 cash.

Tom Downes reports that the Silver Cup improves with depth. Recent samples of the ore have assayed 23 per cent silver.

The trail up Lardau Creek is early completed. It extends some miles up both the north and south forks. It is a good trail and reflects great credit on Messrs. Thompson and Coward.

H. Lindenberg of Kaslo, was a visitor to Revelstoke on Wednesday. He reports a good business in lumber and has increased the output of his mill to 40,000 feet a day. Kaslo is progressing steadily and the people don't want another boom. Mr. Buchanan has received requests from several quarters to become a candidate for parliamentary honors at the next election.

Quite an excitement took place last week at the discovery of quartz and placer gold on Quartz creek, about five miles below Porcupine creek, where a lot of gold has been taken out and a government trail made. Mr. Redgrave has issued a number of free miners' certificates and ten placer claims have been recorded, as well as quartz claims.

A resident of Donald has obtained a lease of a valuable ledge of free-milling gold and lake located two additional claims. He has a dozen men at work on the ten claims comprising the Haskins group, all of which are to be developed this season, although no one will be shipped until better transport facilities are obtained for the Lardau. They are sinking a shaft and tunnelling on the Abbott, the ledge on which is looking splendid. Mr. Haskins will go to Big Bend shortly.

Several rumors concerning the Revelstoke & Arrow Lake road are in circulation. It is true the C. P. R. are cutting down expenses, that 300 of the company's employees at Montreal and every sixth man on the Pacific division, as well as all the Chinamen, have been discharged, and that the clearing of the C. P. R. townsite has been stopped, but the new railway is still going on and it is hoped will be in running order by the end of the year.

Three of the richest strikes ever made in the district have occurred in the Lardau during the past ten days, and which, in the opinion of such a well-known mining expert as C. F. Blackburn, will assay up in the hundreds and even thousands per ton. All the lodes are well defined and of great size. One of them is on the north fork of the Lardau and is composed of copper-silver-galena. Another, of grey copper and galena, showing native gold, is on the South Lardau (Gainer creek). Both these are in the vicinity of Trout Lake City. The third is the big ledge of copper-chloride about 11 miles up Fish creek from Lardau City. It was discovered by three prospectors named Little, Clark and Washington, who brought down huge samples weighing about 100 pounds. They staked three claims on the ledge—the Happy Jack, Great Britain and Dreamland. Great excitement prevailed at Thompson's Landing and Lardau City on receipt of the news, and at once a rush was made up the creek to stake claims. B. Wreeds of the Lardau Hotel, brought up some large samples for assay on Tuesday and went on to Vancouver the same night.

A. H. Holdich, assayer, reports that the sample submitted contains copper, iron, gold and silver. Further particulars will be given next week.

C. A. Griffith, the Great Falls smelter man, came down from Kaslo on Friday. He says the smelters are not purchasing ore at present except for the purpose of cleaning up.

On Wednesday morning a gang of about fifteen men commenced work out at Kaslo erecting the poles and preparing the way for the new C.P.R. telegraph system connecting the Kootenay Lake country with the main C.P.R. system direct.

W. A. Allen, of Ottawa, the representative of an eastern syndicate having extensive mining properties, has gone into the Slokan to look at the Wellington group and other properties. Mr. Allen informed the Miner that if he could arrange with the smelters to take his ore he would continue work all winter, as the ore would stand the decline in silver.

Two extensive shipments of this ore netted over 300 ounces to the ton, so the owners have not much to fear.

Messrs. Jowett and Chabourne have given instructions to have considerable work done on the Abbott group of mines in the Slokan. The work will be commenced at once under Mr. Jowett's supervision. A gang of twelve men have started for the property under Foreman Cody. The men will be kept at work constantly for two months at least, doing assessment and development work. These mines were bonded for the London Mercantile Association by Messrs. Jowett and Chabourne last fall.

Gold Commissioner Fitzsimmons has the highest form of regard for the ability of the Kaslo wagon road committee. The gold commissioner explained that while the road was in the committee's hands over \$7000 of the Government appropriation had been spent. Upwards of 35 men were employed on the work, including a number of "rockmen." The wages paid were higher than any paid on any other Government work in the district, embracing a foreman at \$6 per day with \$2 per day additional for his horse.

(The Nelson Tribune.)
The new court house at Nelson is to be wired for electric lights, and it will also have electric bells in the different offices.

A school house will be erected at Thail by private parties. Already two seven-months terms have been held, the teachers being paid by subscription.

There are fourteen men at work on the No. 1 mine at Alinsworth and three on the Highland. Work has not yet been resumed on the Shaffer company tunnel.

On Wednesday a gang of fourteen men commenced work at Kaslo on the Canadian Pacific telegraph line from Nelson to Revelstoke. The gang will have the line through to New Denver in fifteen days.

The "tote" road along the route of the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway is completed and the route to the valley of Salmon river, and will be through to a connection with the one from the Nelson end within two weeks.

Henry Cody and a party of nine miners left Alinsworth last week to do development work on the Haskins group of mines on Healey creek, in the Lardau country. The report was that the work was to be done in the interest of a Mr. Walton.

Drifts in the Trail creek district are being run from both the 100 and the 200 levels in the Le Roi mine, the work making good progress, the men working eight-hour shifts. The machinery for the War Eagle, that is, two Burleigh drills, a steam engine and an air compressor, have been taken to the mine. It is stated that a diamond drill will also be brought in, so as to more rapidly prospect Trail creek mines.

A meeting of the Deluge hook and ladder company was held on Tuesday afternoon, at which the president of the company was instructed to take steps to incorporate the company, in order that title could be obtained to the lots set apart by the late John Robson for the use of the fire department at Nelson. The president was also instructed to erect a fire hall on the lots in question at a cost not to exceed \$400. Tenders will be called for the work.

Three months ago Frank Hanna of Trail started in alone and single-handed to build a wagon road from the town of Trail to the mines in Trail creek district. He stuck to it two and a-half days before anyone else came to his assistance. For a while the work was carried on by a few men, then the government stepped in and expended a little of its surplus money. To-day the road is completed for a distance of seven miles, and machinery like air compressors, steam engines, Burleigh drills, etc., is being hauled over it. The last half mile was completed by the mine owners. The road is a very good one considering its cost—\$2500.

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Simply apply "SWEET'S OINTMENT." No internal medicine required. Cures itching, eczema, itch, all eruptions on the face, hands, nose, Etc. Restores the skin clear and healthy. Its great healing and curative powers are possessed by no other remedy. Ask your druggist for Sweet's Ointment. By mail, Sons & Co., Montreal, Wholesale Agents. 1242

COMMERCIAL FREEDOM.

Lord Playfair's Remarks on Disguised Forms of Protection.

At the recent dinner at the Cobden Club, Greenwell Lord Playfair spoke as follows:

"The shibboleth of fiscal federation and of the United Empire League is a cross between reciprocity and retaliation. These disguised forms of protection propose to tax foreign imports in order to promote colonial imports, and in the hope that the colonies may lower their tariffs in favor of the mother country. As the colonies send us practically nothing, except food and raw materials, the differential foreign tax must be put on these, or it has no meaning; and, as they send us only one-third of our supplies of these, we are invited to tax two-thirds of the supply in order that one-third may come from more favorable terms. But in taxing food, which is the source of all the potential energy of our producers, we increase the cost of the production; and in taxing raw materials we take away the main benefit which this country of free exchange has in the competition of the world. Much as we differ from the United Empire League in their methods, we admit that their share with customs desire to join the colonies in close bonds with the mother country. Our method is to convince our colonial brethren that they would benefit, as we have done, by commercial freedom; and we invite them to join in order that we may be able to stand on our feet as a free nation, not on custom duties differentiated in their favor, but on the great and beneficial principles of free exchange. We may have to wait, and wait possibly for some time, but we believe that truth will at last prevail. There are already signs that protection in the colonies is producing evils which may soon prove intolerable. Look at Australia, where protection is at present necessarily applied to prolong its existence as the United States. In that great country there are sixty-five millions of people, who inhabit 40 or 50 states and territories extending over three and a half million square miles, without a single import duty house. It is this free trade on a grand scale which acts as an antidote to protection. In Australia we see the ridiculous spectacle of contiguous states, with a sparse population, carrying on an exhaustive tariff against each other, while the large or small colonies, which are foreign countries engaged in industrial war. Their trade has necessarily suffered, though the mischief has been concealed by the colonies constantly borrowing money from the mother country. This outside capital scheme for disposing of the surplus is arrived at the grand lodge dues should be reduced by one-half. Whatever scheme of enterprise the attention of the craft may in future be directed to, involving the outlay of savings, let it be considered the meantime this money is idle. It is earning interest, and it should be a source of pride as well as satisfaction to us all, that so large a proportion of our annual grand lodge dues is being put to use for the benefit of the mother country. At a time when all is going well, and when we feel less apprehension for the future, we should not depart from the sound and thrifty financial policy which has hitherto been pursued of continuing to add to the investments already made and insuring the future financial stability and strength of the craft in this jurisdiction. 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof' is all very well as a motto, under certain circumstances, but it is not a motto to be used as the foundation of a financial policy. The subordinate lodges will not, I trust, become tired of the present scale of contributions to the funds of the grand lodge, until some satisfactory arrangement is reached, to constitute a real burden, nor should grand lodge make any distinct departure from the present simple, safe and sound method of dealing with the surplus so long as there appears no pressing necessity of entering upon some well-defined enterprise in the interests of the craft, that has secured our practically unanimous approval.

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"As a general rule, when the financial features of ordinary institutions are healthy and sound, pretty much all is well; but this is not necessarily applicable to Masonic bodies, which, depend more for their success on other and higher considerations than annual statements of assets and liabilities, and comfortable additions to the reserve. At the same time all will agree that we are happy in the possession of safe and sound interest-bearing securities, for the by no means inconsiderable sum of \$75,000. The question has often been asked, 'What is to be done with this money?' Is it to be used for any practical purpose? Some have suggested the advisability of establishing a home for the unfortunate of our fraternity, or their widows or children, while others propose that until some well-matured scheme for disposing of the surplus is arrived at the grand lodge dues should be reduced by one-half. Whatever scheme of enterprise the attention of the craft may in future be directed to, involving the outlay of savings, let it be considered the meantime this money is idle. It is earning interest, and it should be a source of pride as well as satisfaction to us all, that so large a proportion of our annual grand lodge dues is being put to use for the benefit of the mother country. At a time when all is going well, and when we feel less apprehension for the future, we should not depart from the sound and thrifty financial policy which has hitherto been pursued of continuing to add to the investments already made and insuring the future financial stability and strength of the craft in this jurisdiction. 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof' is all very well as a motto, under certain circumstances, but it is not a motto to be used as the foundation of a financial policy. The subordinate lodges will not, I trust, become tired of the present scale of contributions to the funds of the grand lodge, until some satisfactory arrangement is reached, to constitute a real burden, nor should grand lodge make any distinct departure from the present simple, safe and sound method of dealing with the surplus so long as there appears no pressing necessity of entering upon some well-defined enterprise in the interests of the craft, that has secured our practically unanimous approval.

DEATH OF MR. JUSTICE PATTERSON.
The Vacant Seat Likely to be Filled From New Brunswick—British Columbia Should Have a Chance—Judge Hole's Visit to Ottawa.

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