

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, we are informed, 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 this fall.

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 that is.

We had the pleasure of seeing some splendid looking concentrates from the Splendid 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 obtaining 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 only 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 sum of money towards 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 credit 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, McIntyre basin, East Kootenay, has returned 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 possession of the syndicate.

(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 Lardeau 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 Cowie.

H. Lindenbaur has located a vein of copper ore which assays 80 per cent. On maintaining nickel was discovered on the east range a few days ago. No assay has yet been made, but it appears to be fairly good.

About twenty men are camped on Healey Creek. Great indignation is expressed at the theft from Campbell & Co. of nearly 400 pounds of provisions. No clue has yet been obtained to the perpetrators. It is likely to go hard with them if caught.

Prospectors from the eastern part of Kootenay are making their way towards Kombsket Lake and Big Bend, where the yellow metal is to be met with in both placer and quartz. The trail from Donald to the gold country is being cleared and extended as far as Kombsket Lake.

G. O. Buchanan 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. Sedgrave 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 a graduate is about to be found to work it.

J. W. Haskins came up on the steam-er Illeclawet on Tuesday looking extremely healthy and very much tanned. He has made two or three good runs covering some of the best territory in the vicinity of Trout Lake and 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 Lardeau. 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 Revel-

stoke & 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 Lardeau 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 Lardeau and is composed of copper-silver glance. Another, of grey copper and galena, showing native gold, is on the South Lardeau (Gainer creek). Both these are in the vicinity of Trout Lake City. The third is the big ledge of grey copper-chloride about 11 miles up Fish creek from Lardeau City. It was discovered by three prospectors named Idle-cliffe, Clark and Washington, who brought down huge samples weighing about 100 pounds. They stated three claims on the ledge—the Happy Jack, Great Britain and Dreamhaunt. Great excitement prevailed at Thompson's Landing and Lardeau City on receipt of the news, and at once a rush was made up the creek to stake claims. B. Wreeds, of the Lardeau 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 Engineer Walton. A gang of twelve men have started for the property under Foreman Coy. 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 Fitzsimons 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 similar work of this kind in the province, 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-month terms have been held, the teachers being paid by subscription.

There are fourteen men at work on the No. 1 mine at Alnsnorth 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 "rote" road along the route of the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway is completed over into 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 Alnsnorth last week to do development work on the Haskins group of mines on Healey creek, in the Lardeau 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, is now at 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 uses 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 Trout started 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 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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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 they share our deep 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 our efforts to secure freedom of trade and not on restriction, 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 will be with us 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 was tried without the conditions to prolong its continuance in 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 international custom 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, if they were 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, which is the life-blood of the colonies, has been the appearance of riches. Still, if you closely observe the course of Australian trade, you will find that the rise and fall of imports and exports corresponds with the large or small trade of the mother country—large trade following large loans, light trade following light loans. Unhappily for the present, though perhaps happily for the future, the credit of the colonies has been so easily obtainable. Australia has splendid resources and might soon recover from its financial disasters if she modified her commercial system. In Victoria, for instance, we are told in the Economist, that every father of a family of four persons is taxed for protection £35 8s annually. If this be even near the truth there is a ready explanation of the extraordinary want of development in productive industry. The tariff on the exports of Victoria were £17 12s per head of the population, but in 1890 the exports were only £9 12s per head. No other result can follow heavy taxes and heavy loans, unless it is in the country of the late Captain Paganelli's Disraeli's witty novel. He tells us that it was a country "where it was an opinion every day more received among the best judges that the more a man was taxed the richer he would ultimately prove, and that the nation with the richest people in the world was the one which was most head and ears in debt." Distrust in these illusory maxims will soon enable Australia, when she reforms her fiscal system, to rely on her own resources, and not on borrowed capital, and to develop her industry by removing the shackles which now bind it. She may receive encouragement from the United States and Canada by seeing that they are opening their eyes to the benefits of unrestricted trade. One of the greatest obstacles to the advance of free trade has been that working men connected with wages with protection. Experience, however, has taught them that the tariff system is a hindrance to the progress of the nation, and it is this that produced the recent uprising against protection in the United States. The Cobden club is continually taunted with the admitted fact that many foreign nations, as well as most of our colonies, have the glory of the tariff. Some of the smaller foreign countries, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Norway and Denmark, are not protective countries, and they are peaceful, prosperous and progressive. In our country industries have prevailed, and they find that the infants as they grow older require much more and not less protection. They never cease to be infants. In foreign countries the stress of a city are opening their eyes to the benefits of unrestricted trade. One of the greatest obstacles to the advance of free trade has been that working men connected with wages with protection. Experience, however, has taught them that the tariff system is a hindrance to the progress of the nation, and it is this that produced the recent uprising against protection in the United States. 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