

COMPANY MEETINGS AND REPORTS.

HASTINGS (BRITISH COLUMBIA) EXPLORATION SYNDICATE, LTD.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Hastings (British Columbia) Exploration Syndicate, Ltd., was held in London, England, on November 7 ulto. The Directors' Report, and Balance Sheet for the financial year ended May 31, 1906, were submitted as under:

The directors beg to submit the Eighth Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended May 31, 1906. Shareholders will find in the manager's advices an explanation of the short delay which has occurred on this occasion in the issue of the Annual Report.

The financial condition of the company shows: Cash on hand at bankers, London, and Nelson, British Columbia, £3,032. 7s 7d. The administration expenses for the year, in London and British Columbia are substantially the same as those for the previous twelve months, but the cost of development work at the mines during the same period has increased to the extent of £777. 17s. 1d., and this was incurred on the Arlington group.

The ore shipped to the smelters during the year under review realized £10,070. 5s. 8d. net, this compares with £10,099. 16s. net in 1905. The returns show an increased output, but owing to the lower grade of ore, the average value was nearly \$5 per ton less than that for the preceding year, otherwise the result would have been more advantageous.

From the carefully compiled statements furnished by Mr. Leslie Hill, the company's local manager and consulting engineer in British Columbia, your directors have extracted the following from the advices of August 23, which they consider will be interesting to shareholders:

ARLINGTON MINE.

"During the year 1,470 ft. of development work was done at the Arlington mine, consisting of drifts 929 ft., cross-cuts 47 ft., winzes 44 ft., and raises 450 ft. Of this work 369 ft. was done on the 770 ft. north level, 14 ft. on the 500 ft. north level, 101 ft. on the Head Arlington adit, and 986 ft. on the No. 2 prospect adit. The total cost of this development work was \$8,790.37, or an average cost of \$5.98 per foot.

"The 770 ft. north level was continued for 224 ft., and the No. 2 prospect adit was driven 428 ft., and these levels were connected by two raises. The vein between the No. 2 prospect adit and the 770 ft. north level formed a sag or roll, and an intermediate level was driven from the second upraise 113 ft. north and 88 ft. south. The shoots of ore found on the 770 ft. north level continue to the intermediate level, and are from 2 to 6 in. thick, and occasionally thicker. In the south intermediate level the porphyry in the vein is distorted and irregular, and the ore uncertain. The north intermediate drift looked very promising, but the ore became broken up and irregular. It has now widened out and become more solid and regular, there being two seams, that next the hanging wall about 18 in., and that next the porphyry about 30 in. thick.

"Some small seams of ore were met with in the No. 2 prospect adit, but cross-cutting on these has failed to disclose any shoots of ore which can be stoped.

"The Head Arlington level was driven 62 ft., and cross-cuts aggregating 39 ft. were driven. The vein is entirely cut off by the fault plane, and all the ore disclosed has been stoped out.

"The track from the Head Arlington adit has been taken up and relaid in the old 365-ft. level. Some high grade ore

was left in the workings on this level, and I propose to follow this up and take out all that will pay for stoping.

"A new ore-bin of three bents and with a capacity of 60 tons, together with a high trestle for dumping the waste, was built at the No. 2 prospect adit, and is now being used. The cribbing was built with a view to enlarging the ore-bin, and four more bents will be added this season, which will make the total capacity about 140 tons. All the ore below the 770-ft. level will be brought to this ore-bin.

"The ore shipped during the year was stoped chiefly from the ground below, or to the west of the 770-ft. north level. Some ore which had been left in the upper workings was also followed up and stoped out, and now practically all the ore above the 770-ft. level is stoped out.

"During the year 1,231.94 tons of ore were shipped to the Hall Mining and Smelting Company, at Nelson, which yielded net smelter returns amounting to \$52,352.90, beside which the lead bounty amounting to \$382.43, was paid by the Government, making the total receipts \$52,735.33, or \$42.81 per ton. The average value of the ore sent to the smelter was \$4.94 per ton less than the average value of that shipped during the previous year.

"The cost per ton of ore shipped was as follows: Development, \$7.14; stoping, \$11.08; sorting and tramping, \$4.56; timbering, \$0.14; supplies, \$2.61; general expenses, \$2.34; total, \$27.87.

"Altogether 1,370 mine-cars of ore were taken out and 12,327 mine-cars of waste put on the waste-dump. Adding the waste broken and used to fill up the stopes, the average would be 10 tons of waste to one ton of ore, which would make the average cost of the rock mined \$2.53 per ton.

"The 770-ft north level has been driven to within a short distance of the boundary line of the Arlington claim. The No. 2 prospect adit is in the Directorate mineral claim, but if the ore continues it will be advisable to drive the 770-ft. north level into and through the ground of the Canadian King mineral claim, and to connect these levels in order to secure a supply of air. For this purpose I have obtained a lease of the latter claim for two years from July 1, 1906, at a royalty of 10 per cent., direct from the Canadian King Consolidated Mining Co.

"The ore body on the north intermediate drift has not been developed sufficiently to form an estimate of the amount of ore exposed, but if it continues to develop in length and width, and of equal thickness, the supply of ore for the coming winter is assured."

In a later letter Mr. Hill advises that the foreman at the mine had informed him the ore was still holding its own, and if anything improving, and says:

"I delayed sending you the Annual Report in order to be able to give fuller information in regard to the ore in the north intermediate drift, as the shipments this year will depend principally upon the development of this shoot."

Nothing has been done during the year on any other of the mineral properties owned by the company, but renewed activity is reported at the North Star mine, and there are rumors of a valuable discovery on the Stenwinder claim, both of which are adjacent to the company's properties in East Kootenay district, and any discoveries made by them are likely favourably to affect this company's holdings there.

BLAIRMORE COAL LANDS.

The payment of the second instalment of the purchase price of these properties, due to the Dominion Government of Canada, has been completed, and all interest paid up to April 1, 1906; these absorbed £915 of the company's funds. It will be necessary to provide a sum of about £1,300 for the third instalment, due in June, 1907, and a like amount for the final payment in 1908.

No satisfactory offers have been received for the properties, but your directors are taking further steps toward negotiations, which they trust will lead to a satisfactory result.