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MINING INFORMATION.

One of the most valuable finds of coal, perhaps, in Nova Scotia, has lately been found at Choctans Lake, a few miles from Sydney, C.B. Mr. Fletcher, of the Dominion Geological Survey, confirms the story. The seam consists of three benches, of which the largest is five feet six inches thick. It is reported that an English syndicate is being formed by Mr. Kennedy, who is associated with Mr. E. T. Mosely, the finder and owner of the seam, to work these extensive areas.—*Bras d'Or Gazette.*

An American company is establishing an electric power plant at Bonnington Falls, in the Kootenay country, to be ready for work by the middle of January. It is capable of producing 2,500 horse-power, and can be doubled at short notice. The wires had been strung from Ross to within two miles of the plant on December 10th. At the crossing of the Columbia River, below Waterloo, the span is 850 feet and the wire is 75 feet above the water. Four working mines in Rossland will be supplied with the power, and this will include the Centre Star, Virginia, Monte Cristo, and either the Iron Mask or War Eagle Mines. "No wire will be strung to Nelson at present, as the business will not justify it. Should the Hall mines, however, adopt electricity as its motive power, the line will be built."

At the Gold Hill mine in North-Western Ontario, the diamond drill has been used with satisfactory results. Messrs. Kennedy & Smith have had their drill at work there for some time now, and have reached a depth of 400 feet. The operations, says the *Lake of the Woods Mining Journal*, have confirmed the permanence and auriferous character of the vein. The vein, which varies in dip from 8 to 14 degrees, was struck at a depth of 303 feet, and the core looked most promising. Drilling at this point has been discontinued and the drill removed to another portion of the property, where it is now at work.

Capt. Triggs has let the contract for sinking a further 100 feet to the 120 foot level on the Triggs mine, according to the *Rat Portage News* of 10th. The work is to be finished by April 1st. The shaft on the Yum Yum is now down over 85 feet, and several tons of ore will be crushed as soon as the new reduction works starts running. The appearance of the mine is most promising, and the diamond drill tests made on the property some time ago were very satisfactory.

A subscriber to THE MONETARY TIMES, living near Kamloops, writes on 16th December: "I am away up in the mountains where mail only reaches me at odd times or I would have answered before. I am working on some claims in this district, and before spring hope to realize something. I like the paper immensely and it goes the rounds of the camps until it is nearly worn out. This is a copper gold camp and is rapidly coming to the fore, and will undoubtedly be one of the best in British Columbia. English and Canadian capital is coming in rapidly; they having already purchased 15 claims and are now developing them.

At the first general meeting of the shareholders of the Slocan Mines Exploration and Development Company, Limited, held in Montreal last week, the following were elected to the board of directors: J. P. Dawes, director, Merchants Bank of Canada, president; S. H. Ewing, vice-president, Molsons' Bank; Hon. A. W. Ogilvie, senator; A. C. Clark, broker; G. N. Ducharme, director, Jacques Cartier Bank, vice-president; Hon. F. G. N. Dechene, commis-

sioner of agriculture, Quebec; Isaac Waterman, Imperial Oil Company, London; Hon. Thos. McKay, Senator, Truro, N.S. This company has purchased several well-known silver mines in the Slocan district. The Slocan Sovereign has already 900 feet of development work, and the first shipment of ore was made on November 30th. The Iron Crown, San Berdino and Kenneth silver mines are located near the celebrated White water mine, which is now paying dividends at the rate of \$30,000 per month. It is stated in the *Montreal Gazette* that the capital of the company is \$300,000, of which \$200,000 still remains in the treasury.

The lead furnace at the Hall Mines smelter, at Nelson, B.C., is nearly completed and will probably be blown in shortly after January 15th. Some of the lead ores are now being roasted and made ready for the furnace. The company is trying to make contracts for a steady supply of lead ore, and if this has not been done by the time the furnace is blown in, only a short run will be made with the ore now in hand.—*Nelson Miner.*

Exports of Kootenay ores for 1897, up to December 11th, amounted to 47,040 tons, of an average value of \$73.62 per ton; value, \$3,468,405. The shipments of produce of smelters in the same period was, of matte from Nelson smelter, 2,908½ tons; from the Trail smelter, matte, 5,044½ tons; total matte, 7,953½ tons, value, \$4,146,655. This makes the total value of ore and matte exported, according to the *Nelson Miner*, \$7,610,061, which is a tolerable index of the producing value of the Kootenay mines.

MONTREAL commercial failures for the week are few and of no special importance. Perrault, Perrault & Co., a young firm who began as hatters and furriers last spring, have assigned at the instance of their principal creditor, a Toronto house. They owe \$5,400. Two small millinery concerns are reported in trouble: Miss E. Jackson has assigned and Mrs. E. Herbert has compromised liabilities of \$1,100 at 25 cents.—H. Creed & Son, plumbers, have made an assignment. The concern was unfortunate only a short time back as Creed & Small.—E. S. Reynolds, hotel keeper, reported last week as trying to compromise, has now assigned. He owes \$11,213, \$3,600 being for rent.—A demand of assignment has been made upon G. Cussin, coal and wood dealer, who owes \$2,500.

FROM the ancient capital we hear of the following business disasters: A demand of assignment has been made upon Pouliot & Page, dry goods men Quebec. The business was started about two years ago under the style of "La Maison Blanche," with four partners. Two of them went out last September, the business being continued by the above. The liabilities are stated at about \$10,000.—Miss Julie Boucher, milliner, has assigned, having small local liabilities.—Joseph Poitras, hotel-keeper, has made a voluntary assignment.—In the matter of Leclerc & Cote, shoe manufacturers, whose embarrassment was noted last week, an assignment has been made on the demand of Messrs. Dowker & McIntosh, Montreal. Their affairs are said to look worse than at first anticipated, and it is said they have not fully understood the cost of their goods. Liabilities are figured at about \$20,000, and there is some talk of a 25 cent compromise.—The affairs of the Adams Shoe Company, are also reported to be in unsatisfactory shape, and it has been thought advisable that a statement should be prepared for the consideration of creditors.