

pany will have unusually good transportation facilities and will be enabled to ship ore or concentrates to the nearest smelter at a very small cost. The company's mines are situated on the West Fork of Suesap Creek one mile above its fork, and about three miles above its confluence with the Similkameen River, in the Similkameen Valley, Osoyoos Mining Division, B.C. They consist of the King Edward, Night Hawk, Westmoreland, V. V. & E., Johnny Bull, Tip Top, Woodland, Bank of Fairview and Kendall mineral claims, and are distant about three miles from the route of the proposed railway through this district.

Mr. A. A. Watson, mining engineer, etc., of Vernon, has recently visited the mines and makes a very satisfactory report on the property, and the company hopes that, with the natural advantages they possess in the way of ample water power, a plentiful supply of good mining timber, and the lay of the ground being admirably suited for tunnelling purposes, these mines can be worked at a low rate of expense and with very remunerative results.

KOOTENAY CONSOLIDATED (Lardeau).—Judge Miller, the promoter of the Kootenay Consolidated Mining Company of British Columbia, writing from Minneapolis, says that extensive development work will be started as soon as trails are passable to the different properties now controlled by this undertaking.

LE ROI No 2 (Rossland).—From the mine manager's report on the operations of the mine for January: Output—Tonnage shipped, 1,790. From samples taken at the mine we estimate the ore will average \$14 per ton after smelting charges are paid for. The grade of ore for January should be better than for December. Development—On 600-foot level 93 feet were driven. The object of this was to undercut the downward continuation of stope 20. By placing this ore in sight we will be in a good position to start drifting westwards on the 500-foot level, but until this is done we do not wish to have too many machines on development work. Thirteen feet were cross-cut to undercut downward continuation of easterly bunch of ore in stope 20. This ore has not yet been reached. On the 10th floor of the old Annie stope 59 feet were driven. Diamond drill work—The following diamond drill work has been done during the month: 700-foot level—Hole No. 45 was driven 125 feet. Hole No. 46 was driven 167 feet. The object of both these holes was to undercut downward continuation of ore body No. 21. Nothing of importance was met with, however.

LIGHTNING CREEK GOLD GRAVELS.—The Lightning Creek Gold Gravels and Drainage Co. held its annual meeting in Ashcroft last month. The treasurer's report showed that \$90,000 had been expended on the property. Senator Reid was elected president, Mr. D. Murphy vice-president, and Mr. C. H. Unverzagt, secretary-treasurer. Mr. Unverzagt intends to have the ground thoroughly tested with a boring machine before more sinking.

B. C. COPPER (Boundary).—In reference to the proposed consolidation of the Snowshoe and B. C. Copper companies operating in the Boundary district, a circular issued by the latter company states that the Snowshoe directors have failed to meet the requirements deemed essential by the directors of the B. C. Copper Company to make the plan an advantageous one in the interests of shareholders but it is added that improved conditions at the property render the failure of the consolidation plan of no great consequence. The directors now state that the blast furnaces at the Greenwood smelter are now in full operation, with ample ore supplies; that the earnings are in excess of all expenses, and converting and electrical plants are rapidly approaching completion and will be at work, adding materially to the net earnings.

ARLINGTON (Erie).—During the month of February, 1904, ten carloads of ore were shipped from the Arlington mine, Erie, containing 229 tons, the net smelter returns from which amounted to \$10,453.69. The expenses in British Columbia for the month amounted to \$3,639.23, leaving a profit on the month's working of \$6,814.46.

GIANT (Rossland).—Mr. Charles V. Jenkins, of the accounting department of the War Eagle-Centre Star companies, has been appointed provisional liquidator of the Giant

Mining Company under the winding-up order granted upon the petition of Mr. Edwin Durant.

CASCADE (Rossland).—A judicial order for the sale of the Norway Mountain mine has been granted to satisfy a judgment.

COMPANY MEETINGS. AND REPORTS.

ATHABASCA-VENUS, LIMITED.

The manager has submitted the following report covering a period from November, 1903, to December 31st, 1903: The work on the Venus has been confined to one vein which has been developed by a system of raises and tunnels having a total length of about 4,500 feet. Of this work about 2,100 feet have been driven in 1903 at a cost of \$6.50 per foot. When we began drilling in November, 1902, the Venus ore reserves were approximately 5,000 tons; since then 7,325 tons have been mined, producing \$62,000, but the years' development has maintained the reserves at about the same figure, that is to say, there is still as much ore in reserve as at the first of the year, but the probable reserves are much greater. About 1,200 feet of driving and 500 feet of upraises, will add on 1, 3 and 4 tunnels from 20,000 to 25,000 tons of ore to the reserves. If No. 5 level was driven for 1,300 feet it would add 10,000 tons to the reserves.

It is stated that the ore extracted to date which has averaged in width 15 inches, has been from the outer blocks so near the surface as to result in the vein being disturbed mine in a position to produce 30 tons daily, would be: Min- and faulted, with blocky walls, necessitating a large amount of dead work and timbering. These conditions together with the fact that the development was not sufficiently advanced have made the mining costs much heavier than they would otherwise have been. It has averaged for the year \$5 per ton, included in which costs is a large amount of dead work. For a certain period during the year when the conditions were advantageous, the cost averaged as low as \$3.85 per ton and this condition he says he can maintain when the development is sufficiently advanced. In December the installation of an air-pipe line from the Athabasca to the Venus was completed. One small machine drill is being used in No. 4 tunnel and that another will soon be at work in tunnel No. 3.

The contract system for mining the outer stopes has recently been introduced. During the year steady improvement has been made, various costs have been reduced, and the grade of the ore has been increased.

The first work undertaken in the spring of 1903 on the Athabasca was the driving of an adit level to tap the No. 2E level, which had been driven east from the old No. 2 shaft. The vein, as exposed along this level for some 300 feet, is quite regular and of an average width of 12 inches. The value is not uniform, but in two shoots, each about 100 feet in length, they average fairly well. A mill run of about equal amounts from each shoot, totalling 145 tons, gave returns of \$18 net per ton, which would indicate that the gross value of the ore is about \$20 per ton. In regard to available tonnage there is about 1,000 tons in the two shoots mentioned between the tunnel level and the surface, in addition to what has been extracted, 640 tons. All of this except the 145 tons above referred to was milled with the Venus ore and gave returns of about \$12 per ton. The lower grade is accounted for by the fact that in starting to stope considerable waste was unavoidably intermixed.

As the showing of ore on No. 2E level is very promising the scheme of development is a shaft from that level. There is every reason to expect that this shaft continued for say 400 feet below the No. 2E level, with levels run each way at every 100 feet, will develop valuable ore bodies and place the mine on a better basis than at any time in its history. As the mine has been lying idle for two years a large amount of repair work was necessary which added materially to the year's expenditures.

The old works portion of the mine was let on the tribute basis, and during the season the tributaries extracted from the old pillars, etc., throughout the old stopes, 295 tons of ore,