

The illumination of the cities of Vancouver and Victoria upon the occasion of the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York last month was quite one of the most pleasing features of the reception arrangements, and it is something to boast that in these relatively small towns of a country which, to home-staying Britishers at least, is embracingly known and characterised as "wild and woolly," the illumination of public buildings and streets, offices and shops by electricity, compared, in the opinion of a qualified expert, more than favourably with similar displays of the more populous cities of Eastern Canada. In Victoria, the most beautiful effect was produced by the outlining of the central portion and part of the wings of the Legislative Buildings in light; some, though unfortunately not by any means an adequate, idea of which may be gathered from our illustration. The photograph was taken from the roof of the Victoria post office, and the imperfections noticeable in the reproduction were caused by halation from the powerful arc lamps in the vicinity. The work of wiring the building was undertaken by a local firm, the Hinton Electric Company, Limited. Two thousand lamps were altogether used in this illumination, those on the main building being of 10 c. p., and on the wings, of 6 c. p. For the same lighting 110-volt circuits was utilised, while a pressure of 1,000 volts was employed in connection with the lights on the building itself.

The accompanying photograph shows a pack train conveying a first consignment of mica from claims in the Big Bend district to Golden. During the past summer several mica occurrences have been tentatively worked in this region and also at Ice river, east of

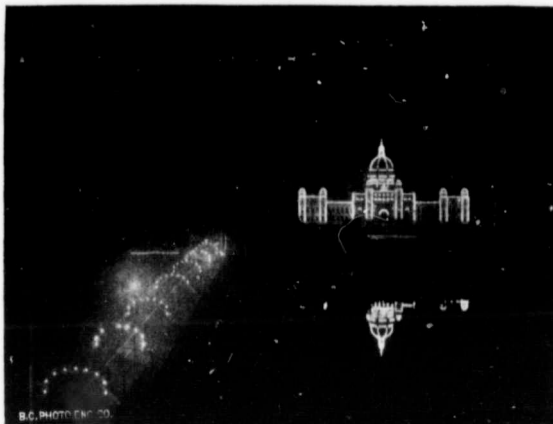


PACK TRAIN TRANSPORTING MICA FROM CLAIMS IN BIG BEND COUNTRY.
—Photo by L. H. Estell.

Golden. In the elbow of the Big Bend of the Columbia river, some twenty-four claims have been located, on veins from two to three hundred feet wide, in a mica-schist formation. At Ice river a number of locations

have also been made, and a trial shipment of a ton of mica was forwarded to England this month.

Satisfactory progress in mining development continues to be made in the Kamloops district, which is



ILLUMINATION OF LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS, VICTORIA, OCT. 2, 1901.

rapidly coming into prominence as a mining centre. Of the more important happenings during the past month our special correspondent writes:

A 40-h. p. boiler has been recently installed at the Iron Mask, and the new pump has been put in place at the 300-foot level. A shaft house has been erected and an extension made to the bunk house. A contract for 150 feet of work is also under way on the Chieftain, shipping ore has been met in the drift 50-foot level. This group of claims is now owned by the Chieftain Copper Mines of B. C., Ltd. Messrs. Fowler and Carter have put up winter quarters on the Last Rose of Summer and the claim will be worked all winter. The high-grade ore taken out is being sacked for shipment. The dredge on the North Thompson has for some time now been working in good ground.

It is to be regretted that the Ben D'Or Mining Co., Ltd., which for the past two years has been operating a group of mines in the Bridge River district of Lillooet, has been recently compelled to go into liquidation. The property is undoubtedly valuable and has been intelligently enough developed, but circumstances have been against its successful operation, notably as regards the excessive costs of transportation of supplies over the rough trail between the mine and the nearest railway station. Despite the many difficulties the directors made a plucky endeavour to place the property on a self-supporting basis, but the handicap proved too great and the enterprise, which would unquestionably have succeeded under reasonably favourable conditions, now helps to swell the list of British Columbia mining failures. The directors themselves, being also principal shareholders, are the chief sufferers and as such are entitled to sympathy rather than condemnation, but they will, long ere this, have realised the imprudence of engaging in mining, even when possessing a moderately rich free-milling vein of ore, with an inadequate working capital.