

The aerial tramway was running on the Wakefield this week and worked very well. The water will be turned on in the mill on the first of next month. The mine has 12 miners under contract in the mine, but would put on 100 men if the labour trouble was settled.

Development work is progressing favourably on the Marion and the ore-chute continues to improve. The management will not attempt to ship this winter, but active development work will be prosecuted.

The Madison has just installed a gasoline hoist, from Fairbanks, Morse & Co. Crouse & Williams have just finished the 700-foot tunnel contract in the Sovereign which belongs to the same company.

The Queen Bess is working about 22 men who are operating machines and working on contract. The lower tunnel being driven by steam drill is in about 350 feet. The mine has shipped about 150 tons this month. Things would be very active in the Slocan now if it were not for the eight-hour law and fully 1,000 more men would be employed in our mines. No miners are at work except machine men, men on contract labour and those who the old scale of wage does not affect.

OREGON VS. BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Below you will see the differences in mining in British Columbia and Oregon and are facts taken from a letter from a well known mining man in Baker City, Oregon, and who also has very considerable interests in the Slocan. My correspondent is an Eastern Canadian:

Oregon.—Labour (\$3.50) for ten hours; powder, 12 cents per pound; duty on lead, nil; Government tax on output, nil; no tax on mine.

British Columbia.—Labour (\$3.50) for eight hours; powder, 17 cents per pound; duty on lead, \$30.00 per ton; Government tax on output, 1 per cent. and said to be going to be increased; tax on mine and improvements.

In the face of the above great disadvantages for mining in this country surely the Government ought to go other countries one better by trying to encourage mining rather than putting obstacles in its way. Good men are leaving this section for the American side and the ones already here would sell out if they could reasonably. The public have so very little faith in the laws of this section now, as the Legislature are changing them every session and consequently none of us "know where we are at." I trust that the above figures will in some measure interest the readers of the MINING RECORD.

RAWHIDER.

REVELSTOKE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Now that the annual festivities are over, tempered as they were by the deplorable war in the Transvaal, people are beginning once more to turn their attention to business; and business in this district means mining. Everyone is talking about the work that will be done this year, and of the great strides that our chief industry will make, especially in the way of attracting more outside capital to the country, which indeed is the main thing necessary. We have the mineral in abundance, but as a rule are sadly lacking the means wherewith to make it profitable, whilst the far too frequently mismanaged English companies who have invested heavily here, by their failures (which in other hands might have been successes) have considerably damaged our chances of getting as much assistance from outside capital as our remarkably rich

district deserves. So true is this that many old-timers look doubtfully on any English company proposing to take up mineral claims here, as from experience they know that the result will probably be failure, and a blackeye to the country. It is very certain that mining must always from its very nature be a good deal of a gamble, but the small companies which are by far the safest investment, as a general rule know a great deal about their properties before they are stocked, and manage them with the idea that every man about the place should be worth his pay, no ornaments being required or allowed.

There is in all camps, far too little attention paid to sanitary arrangements, all kinds of kitchen refuse, the inevitable tin cans, old clothing, and slops are usually deposited as close as possible to the cabin.

This matter has been referred to before this, but it is quite of sufficient importance to be "rubbed into" those in control; and a few more conveniences such as a place for a bath, could as a rule be arranged without much difficulty, and with much benefit to the public health and comfort of those employed.

Just in this immediate vicinity, mining is extremely quiet. Some unfortunate trouble has occurred with the Boston & B. C. Co., and the men are all laid off at present; but it is stated on the very best authority that the trouble, whatever it was, has been adjusted, and that work in the Standard Basin will be continued immediately just as was intended. The mine is said to have been working very well indeed when work ceased. But though the Big Bend is unexpectedly quiet, a very different state of things holds in the Lardeau, which is all work and bustle. The unusually mild winter has interfered seriously with the rawhiding and freighting arrangements, but notwithstanding the difficulty of transportation the Nettie L. amongst others has got a large pile of ore sacked at Thomson's Landing (the nearest point to the river) and very much more at the mine and at Ferguson. This is just an illustration of the small and good investments referred to above; the ore extracted will prove a most valuable source of income, and it has not been the policy of the managers to get out ore at the expense of development, that work has been steadily prosecuted the whole time to the great advantage of the property. At the Silver Cup there was some temporary trouble recently, when most of the men were laid off, but that also has been satisfactorily arranged and work is proceeding as usual. Many other claims are being worked this winter in the Lardeau district; on First Creek operations will be commenced forthwith on the Moscow, which is said to have a wonderfully fine surface showing, and a tunnel of at least 50 feet will be driven on the vein. It is impossible to enumerate all the prospects and partly developed mines that are keeping from two to thirty or more men employed, but busy as the district is this winter, it will surely be a very hive of industry next summer, when the long expected railroads which are already partly finished shall at least enter into and open up this wonderfully mineralized region, and render those claims comparatively easy to approach which have hitherto been almost inaccessible.

H.

TROUT LAKE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Greater activity exists at the present time in this district than in any previous winter. A force of 18