

of electric traction for the moving of ore in a rough and mountainous country are immense, and will yet be made use of to a much larger extent than they have been, especially in a country where the opportunities to develop electricity from water power are so numerous as they are in Kootenay. The company proposing this enterprise is a responsible one and the experiment will doubtless be tried.

The Le Roi report for August is interesting, chiefly from the fact of the extremely low grade of the ore shipped: \$13.55 per ton is not certainly a high average, and yet a very good profit can be made on this ore. The amount of ore reported on covered the output of 24 days. The pay-roll of the mine is roughly \$1,000 a day, say \$24,000 monthly. Freight and treatment on the amount of ore shipped would amount to about \$22,500. Expenses of management cannot well be estimated very closely, but suppose they are put at \$10,000 a month, four-fifths of that would be \$8,000, making a total of \$54,500, leaving a net profit of \$30,000, or \$4.75 per ton, on the lowest grade ore yet shipped. The total cost of mining and treating ore from the Le Roi is not over \$8.80 per ton, and with an increased tonnage should be less. And it must be remembered that this figure includes all the expensive development at present in progress. That is the advantage of estimating cost from pay-roll. It brings everything at once into current account. The foregoing estimate is based on a freight and treatment rate of \$3.50, which may be considered too low, but, nevertheless, the treatment cost is only \$3.00 per ton. This wonderful result has been attained by putting good men in charge. The combination of Messrs. Bellinger and Brun has enabled the Northport smelter to achieve results in the economy of treatment unsurpassed in America. They own one-quarter of the smelter between them and are both accumulating great fortunes out of it. How long will it be before they are bought out and replaced by an expensive, inexperienced, and therefore incompetent English management, such as has frequently wrought havoc in otherwise good mining and milling propositions?

There is a decided improvement in the prospects of the Rossland South Belt. The very satisfactory appearance of the Homestake has been followed by a discovery of copper ore on the Deer Park, which has greatly encouraged shareholders in that property, and other prospects are undergoing reorganization and are likely to be worked. Those who have had long experience of the Rossland camp are coming more and more to the conclusion that mining is still in its infancy and that gradually but surely the area of production and profit will extend until some of the earlier dreams of enthusiasts are realized.

There is a well-defined rumour in mining circles that Mr. Whitaker Wright is meditating a general coup in the Rossland camp. It is not necessary to explain or criticize that gentleman's business methods. But people who malign often do so because they have not the brains to emulate. Be that as it may, Mr. Whitaker Wright knows his business and makes it amply successful. There may be a good deal of financial jugglery about it but it is not all financial jugglery. There is sound judgment and rapid intuition, amounting to genius, about it. Nobody seems to know just what he is up to at present,

but he is up to something. He wants to float West Le Roi and Columbia-Kootenay and make a good market for these shares. Before he can do that the British Columbia market must be galvanized into activity. It is stagnant at present. There are two ways of doing it, one to rush the Le Roi output and declare a dividend, the other to take away the market's breath by declaring a big dividend on the B. A. C. It is unlikely that he will move until the Transvaal war cloud has cleared away, because while that looms over the market the dynamic force of his action would be wasted. But it is significant that while the Le Roi is shipping low-grade ore, and not so very much of it, the Northport smelter is steadily increasing its capacity.

How haphazard mining is after all and with what extraordinary persistence bodies of ore are sometimes overlooked. A case in point is the recent discovery on the surface of the Black Bear, at Rossland. The Black Bear shows the outcrop of a ledge on which pits have been sunk from the flat on which the Le Roi compressor stands up to the crest of the hill. A tunnel was also started by the original locator, supposed to drift in on the vein. In all of this work no indications of value were discovered and the Le Roi Company bought the claim, so it is reported, for \$500. The company continued the tunnel, but desiring to use it as a means of exit to the mine bore away to the north. This summer, to carry out the proposed development scheme of the Le Roi this tunnel is being enlarged and improved and extensive grading was undertaken at the mouth where a shop for framing timbers was contemplated. This involved blasting the top off the ledge capping, which had been lying stripped for years. The result was over ten feet of beautiful ore, carrying fair values in gold and a high percentage of copper. The portal of the tunnel is within six feet of this ore. Four sticks of giant powder and four hours' work would have made a difference to the original locator of between \$500 and \$50,000, or if he had held his property till now between \$500 and \$500,000. But the tunnel started above the ore and bearing north remained above and to one side of it all the way. The only thing the occurrence reminds one of is practising at a window pane with a pistol to see how near one can come without breaking the glass. The obvious moral is never run a drift tunnel to show up a property without cross-cutting, and do not be afraid of surface work.

The Northport smelter has given a \$4.50 freight and treatment rate to the Evening Star and presumably to other mines that care to ask for it. The margin of profit to the smelter must be very small if indeed there is any. But in the interest of Rossland mining the effect of such a rate cannot be overestimated. It bears out what we stated last month that the lower grade of the ores mined would be compensated by the higher percentage of profit on each ton mined arising from improved facilities for handling and treatment.

The estimation of the Le Roi mine in London is being seriously affected by a persistent impression that the ore from that property is growing baser. This impression is apparently borne out by the statistics of treatment, but is entirely at variance with the facts. Under the old management only parts of the ore-body were mined. There was a continual hunt going on for portions of the ore which were the richest. In