

The British Columbia MINING EXCHANGE and Investors' Guide

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Mining News.

ROSSLAND.

The regular monthly dividend of 1½ per cent. on \$1,750,000, or \$26,250, was paid by the War Eagle Consolidated Company last week, making the total dividends paid to date, \$335,250.

A NEW COMPANY.

The Blackcock Mines, Limited, capitalized at \$1,000,000, has been formed to operate the Blackcock mine at Ymir. The directors are: A. J. McMillan, president; J. Julien, vice-president; Alderman O. Lalonde, A. Audet and J. L. G. Abbott.

SMILKAMEEN.

The owners of the property referred to in our last issue, in this district, on Kennedy Mountain, have already commenced operations on the new find, and we shall be glad to note developments.

MURPHY'S PROPERTY.

For many years Granite Creek has kept many men at work, but of late the surface gravel generally has been depleted of gold, and the second era has appeared, where it takes capital to reach the gold. Mr. Murphy, one of the most traveled, intelligent and practical men that it is possible to meet, is working a placer also further up Granite Creek, and has driven drift about one-quarter of a mile in length, and the information given puts the values down at \$15 per man per day.

OTHER KINDS OF WEALTH.

In addition to the copper, gold and silver in this district platinum is also found. It is also one of the best grazing countries that ever made glad the heart of man. The hills, as far as the eye can see, are covered with green grass a foot deep, and it is an ideal country.

LARDEAU, TROUT LAKE.

The I X L Group, adjoining the Nettie in the Lardeau, is likely to turn out to be in development one of the best properties in the Kootenay as a silver-lead producer. We have seen the result of assay and bullion test, made from ore sent down during the winter, which went 50

per cent. of metal; the brick, assaying 0.4 gold, 618.1 oz. silver, 93.43 per cent. lead, value \$453.61 per ton (2,000 lbs), was forwarded to London, England.

The Trout Lake Topic has extracted from Chief Doucet, of the C. P. R. survey party, information to the effect that it is the intention of the Company to build only as far as the foot of Trout Lake this Fall and to complete the line to Arrowhead next year. The line will pass right through Trout Lake City and will run along the side of the lake, which will be lowered five feet to make a right-of-way.

KLONDIKE.

The machinery, plant, etc., of the Grand Forks of Bonanza Gold Mining Co., Klondike, Limited, in charge of the superintendent, left Vancouver, by the S. S. Cutch, on the 6th July. They expect to be on the company's property, 1500 feet from Discovery on Bonanza Creek, in about 12 days from arriving at Skagway, when the machinery will at once be placed in position and cabins and stores erected. The gravel will be got out during the winter so that they will have a good dump to wash out next season. One of the directors went up with the party in the interest of English shareholders.

We has just received news that the superintendent, with machinery, plant, etc., have arrived at Bennett; the foreman, Reilly, having been sent in, immediately on the arrival of the S. S. Cutch at Skagway, to prepare the way at Bennett for the transportation of machinery, etc., so as to prevent delay. We hear that they expect to have everything in place on the diggings in about a month.

KLONDIKE NOW EASY OF ACCESS.

In Pacific Coast Railway circles the event of the month, so far, has been the completion of the White Pass and Yukon Railway from Skagway to Bennett. The promise of the company that trains would be running through by the 10th or 15th July being more than redeemed and a feat in railway building accomplished that is probably without parallel in history. With connections at Bennett with the Canadian Development Co.'s first-class line of steamers—one of which, the Canadian, has broken the record between Dawson and White Horse—and by taking an ocean steamer at Vancouver, the trip can be made to Atlin in from 5 to 6 days, and to Dawson in 7 to 8 days, with every comfort. The difference between now and a year since in Northern travel will be fully appreciated, more especially by those who went in under the initial difficulties.

According to Mr. Dowling his view of the Klondike is at present exceptional. He approves the Klondike. He believes the matters at Dawson should be. Food especially is cheap. "Why, sugar was \$1.25 a pound a little while ago, but it is likely to get down to 50c. Butter is \$1 a pound and a can of condensed milk is a little more. But pork is only 22c. a pound and a pound of beans is given away for 15c. People might say that sugar and butter are luxuries, but I've noticed that a man that eats them never has scurvy. But there isn't much scurvy at Dawson, nor much fever. The town has 5,000 people, with

45,000 near by, and there's comparatively little sickness. Travel, too, is getting cheap and comfortable. Nelson Bennett has put a broad-gauge railway up from Skagway to the top of the pass, where it connects with a stage coach that takes you to Lake Bennett, and there you get on a steamboat and get off at Dawson. The boats have staterooms, and will carry 150 passengers or more. You can buy a through ticket from Seattle or Vancouver to Dawson for \$100, and a return ticket from Dawson for \$195. That's because it's so much slower and more expensive for a steamboat to go up the river to Lake Bennett than to go down. Our boat used 125 cords of wood coming up, and paid \$9 a cord for the wood. But by the end of August the railroad will connect with the boats directly at the lake, and the river will be open until the 1st of Sept. No, the season isn't so early as reported. And in winter the air is so still that I have been much colder on the streets of St. Paul than during my 15 months in the Klondike. I don't think, though, that they'll build a railroad to Dawson very soon. You can come out during cold weather on a dog sled. Last winter they would charge a man \$300, give him a single bed and three dogs, tuck him snug under fur robes, and take a bunch of these sleds down to the coast in eight days. The mining laws are all right. The kickers kick most against the 10 per cent. royalty. But a miner can take out \$2,500 a year free, and that's a good profit. It's only on the surplus above \$2,500 that he has to pay the royalty. That isn't a big tax considering how much the Government does for people up there. If it hadn't been for the Canadian Police there would have a regular slaughter in the mining camps. But the first murder in the Klondike took place only a few ago. Some half-crazy fellow killed his tentmate. Before that we only had three suicides. One man killed himself, and two girls found it was pretty lonely to be reckless so far from home."

But as to the gold in the Klondike Mr. Dowling was less optimistic. "There were only a few good mines in the first place," he explained, "and they were taken up long ago. I have a mine myself, or I would not be starting back to-morrow. But it's so expensive to thaw the ground out by burning cordwood at \$50 a cord. The steam thawer that blows jets of steam against the ground under a box is much cheaper and I'll take a thawer with me to the arctic circle."

TONS OF GOLD.

Many of the Klondikers who were passengers on the S. S. Queen, which returned from Skagway a couple of days ago, witnessed the departure from Dawson for St. Michaels of the British-American line river steamer, Robert Kerr, which they say carried over \$1,000,000 worth of dust, and this was followed a day or two later by the Pilgrim, of the same line, floating down the Yukon with \$800,000 more.

Three hundred thousand of the output of T. S. Lippy's 16 El Dorado claim went down on the Kerr, his being the largest individual shipment. The Canadian Bank of Commerce had \$500,000 on the Pilgrim and \$400,000 on the Kerr. The latter left Dawson with 161 passengers, and no doubt swelled the number at Rampart and other down river points to 200.

A large proportion of the bank shipment, it is said, represents royalty collected by the government from the Klondike miners.