

Damas Touquoy soon got to work again after his trip to Europe; he was in the city with two bricks of gold weighing 109 oz., obtained from 1295 tons of quartz. The gold from this property is exceptionally fine even for Nova Scotia, and is worth on an average almost \$20 per oz.

It will be noticed that the returns sworn at the mines office during the month, which appear elsewhere, amount to 3509 oz. From present appearances there is every prospect of 1895-1896 being the best year on record, and for the benefit of the Province we would urge mine owners to keep their returns well up to date.

A petition has been sent to the Provincial Secretary asking for the removal of all royalty on gold obtained from tailings and concentrates recovered by the chlorination process. This petition has our fullest sympathy and we are sure the government of the Province would be making a wise step in granting the request.

Hugh Duffey *et al* are developing their property at Millipic and are just now getting some very handsome quartz.

A find of low grade plumbago has been made in Cape Breton, and mining operations will probably be started this summer.

A find of coal is reported from Bass river, Colchester Co., but no particulars are to hand.

Ontario.

The Empress gold mine at Jackfish, Ontario, is being developed as rapidly as the force of men at work can do it. A drift has been run in from the hillside and when the vein was struck, a winze was sunk. The ore taken out shows equally as rich as does that on the surface. Free gold is encountered at almost every sink and the shareholders are quite satisfied with the outlook. The mine manager says that he never saw a better prospect in his life. A crosscut has been run on the vein and a large quantity of rock has been thrown up ready to run through the mill. A ten stamp mill is just about completed on the property, about 200 yards from the vein, at a point below a beautiful fall of water, which will develop all the more power than is necessary for the workings. It is expected that the mill will be completed by the 15th inst., and the first clean up will occur on the 25th.

The Canadian Copper Company is adding a third furnace to its plant. The three old mines of the company, namely, the Copper Cliff, the Stobie, and the Evans, are being worked to their fullest capacity now, with an output of 450 tons of ore a day. The company is also opening up two new mines this year, one a little west of the Copper Cliff, and the other in the township of Denison, and known as the Krane Hill, which is said to a valuable deposit high-grade nickel and copper ore.

Ray-Weigand Mine—On the 1st inst., J. C. Foley paid over to Colonel Ray the balance due upon the above mine. The total price for this tract, viz: AL 74-5-6, was \$40,000. Mr. Foley has two shafts and several tunnels driven upon this claim, amounting to a total of 450 feet, their greatest depth being in the north shaft on AL 74, viz: 212 feet. At this depth the vein measures 3 ft. 6 in., and shows up rich in native and free milling gold ores. Only two drills are now in operation (Ingersolls). It is, however, anticipated that vigorous operations will be resumed there upon the arrival of Mr. Foley, now overdue.

At K198, adjoining Foley, Colonel Ray has a force of skilled miners stripping and sinking upon a series of phenomenally rich and strong lodes, three at least of which cut squarely across the formation with an average strike of N. 17 degs. west, and everywhere exposed, showing up rich in gold finely disseminated. As the mill closes, Colonel Ray arrived at La Seine river, where he will remain to complete his examination of the foregoing and other promising prospects upon Shoal, Bad Vermillion and Wild Potatoe lakes.

The Turtle River and Lake—Messieurs. John Rodi & Co. continue active development upon their estate of nearly 1,000 acres. This tract, unlike the Ray-Weigand *et al* (in the protogene) is well within the area of Keewatin slates of Huronian age. Their ores are, for the most part, perfectly free milling, their lodes strongly defined and nearly parallel, with a very appreciable showing of native gold distinctly visible. Mr. Rodi hails from Drummond, near Christiansburg, Norway. He is presently engaged in surveying and prospecting additional mineral lands north and west of his present camp.

The Australian—W. E. Stone adjoins the Rodi estate on the east. His claims, consisting of HP 140-1-2-3-4, and K 402, all of forty acres each, are traversed by the Rodi and another strongly defined quartz vein, showing and proving very nicely in most of the numerous pits and openings recently made thereon by Mr. Stone & Son, the sole owners.

Camp Ferguson—This property lately acquired by D. W. Ferguson, of London, England, consists of AL 110 and AL 111. A large and ever-increasing force of surface hands are busily engaged in preparing buildings, shafts and sites generally for the introduction of mining machinery; while three shifts of miners are sinking in the Finn and two other shafts driven upon parallel veins. Like the Ray claims on Shoal Lake (Foley), the Ferguson property is in the protogene (coarse crystalline granites), the veins cutting diagonally across the formation with a strike of N. 20 degs. W. astronomical. The Finn shaft is down 75 feet, the others averaging 30 feet each. Gold is perfectly visible to the naked eye in all their workings.

The Upper LaSeine River—Several rich finds have been made there lately and much interest is being taken by prospectors in the region adjacent to Harold Lake, where the Wileys of Port Arthur have been so successful with their mine and mill. Already several most promising locations were made in this immediate vicinity, and westward to Sawbill and eastward to Partridge lake. It was in this lake (Partridge) that gold was first discovered (over 24 years ago) by the MacKellar Bros. Rich lodes, assaying from 3 to 12 ounces of gold per ton have just been discovered there by an Indian from the lower reaches of La Seine.

K 244—This interesting property, situated on the north shore of Bad Vermillion,

like the Rodi and Stobie lodes, immediately north, has lately produced some marvellously fine showings of native gold, with abundance of free milling ores. A small force of men under the direction of the brothers Bush and Fred Winning, are engaged in stripping and otherwise testing the claim with the most gratifying results. The K 244, with K 231, is owned by the Ottawa Syndicate. The former is in slate, while the latter is in the protogene granites, wherein almost all the auriferous lodes are true fissures. K 231 is also under partial development. This property is attracting considerable attention.

Mr. F. Cirkel, M.E., is rapidly pushing forward the construction of the new milling plant of the Ontario Graphite Co. at Ottawa. 370 tons of graphite from the company's mine have been shipped for treatment.

At the property of the Lake Harold Gold Mining Co., No. 2 drift is now in 140 ft., the vein in the breast showing a width of two feet. The last clean-up from the mill gave \$18 per ton. No. 1 shaft on the shore, now sinking, shows very rich ore and the manager claims it will mill about \$100 per ton. The vein here is, however, small.

Of the Saw Bill Lake mine, Mr. F. S. Wiley, the managing director, writes as follows: We started mining about the 25th April, and our shaft is down now to a depth of 35 feet. The vein had a width on the surface of three feet, and has since widened to 5 ft., showing free milling ore all the way, running from \$10 to \$30 per ton. This is certainly a good showing and if the present conditions continue, we have a very fine property. The quartz has a pinkish color, carrying besides free gold, a concentrate, composed of iron and copper pyrite and galena, which I should say or consider, would make about a 4 per cent. and average about \$150 to \$200. After I get down about fifty feet, it is the intention to start drifting, and by the time (say next January) when we can transport a mill, we will have sufficient ground opened up to keep 10 or 15 stamps humping (always provided that present conditions continue). This section at present is attracting the attention of any number of prospectors, and a few good veins have been discovered already this spring, some of which are being worked.

At Island Falls, 18 miles east of here, Mr. L'roudfort is sinking two shafts with a gang of six miners, and I hear the prospects are very bright. Between this point and Lake Harold (west of this), James Hammond, for Folger Bros., of Kingston, is prosecuting work on the veins which show considerable merit. Nearly all the development so far is in the so called protogene formation, though a few of the veins are at the contact of that rock and the green schist.

Our mining camp is on the shore of this lake, beautifully situated. The lake is eight miles long, by about 1 1/2 wide, abounding in whitefish, trout, pike and pickerel, with plenty of game. To see a moose is no uncommon occurrence. Our boys had a great chase after one in a canoe the other day just opposite the camp; they caught him but of course as there is a law against it "we didn't do anything with him."

British Columbia.

Slocan District.

The decision of Justice Walkem in the Monitor case (Wills vs Petty), gives a good precedent for the non-validity of verbal promises, or alleged promises, to share interests in mining claims. The Monitor has had a short but interesting history. It was discovered upon the side hill opposite Three Forks during last summer by Geo. Petty. An option carrying \$30,000.00 for 30 days was given, \$500.00 being paid down. This option was not taken up. With the \$500.00 as a start Petty began to ship ore, and the late prospect became a nice paying little mine. As soon as this was accomplished more or less claims of being "in on it" were preferred; and these, it is satisfactory to observe, have been decided as of no avail. The case is, however, carried to appeal at the Supreme court of British Columbia.

The matter is one of great moment to prospectors. Their partnerships and grub stake agreements are of the loosest kind. A man easily gives interests in his future prospects, but after spending hard work and money on proving them worth holding, he is inclined to let his friends who are "in on it" and who have not done a stroke of work, carry their case to court, especially if the arrangement is not on file.

The usual practice in prospecting in West Kootenay is to prospect in twos and threes. Each man stake in his own single name and then record transfers of an even share with his partners, in his and their claims.

The Noble Five group of mines have been the subject of much attention in the past, especially in the matter of experts, capitalists and litigation. The latest report is that this group, together with the adjacent "Deadman," will be incorporated as the Noble Five Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, with \$1,200,000 capital stock. The trustees are, John G. McGuigan, Robinson M. Sherman and James B. Jones. It was only a month or so ago that the Gooderhams of Toronto were expected to take up this property. It is another Slocan mining property gone to our friends on the other side.

Several experts have been busy looking over the dry ore prospects of the southern Slocan of late. A little English capital is coming in and considerable bonding has been done by western or Pacific coast Canadians. The stocks put upon the markets of the coast cities seem to have stimulated speculation in that quarter. However the great majority of Slocan mines are in the hands of close corporations at present, and of these a respectable number are still owned by the original locators, which says much for the district being a poor man's camp.

Cariboo Creek prospects are looking up a little this summer. Several properties have been bonded, and considerable prospecting and assessment work is being carried on. The veins are usually pyritic and are well defined and of good size. Cariboo Creek mining camp is some 20 miles west of Slocan lake. The formation is slate and schists. The country intervening, from Slocan lake, west, to the head of Cariboo creek has seldom been crossed. An apparently barren belt of gneissoid granite lies back of the lake, which has so far discouraged prospecting. However, crystalline limestones are said to exist 12 miles inland and these may influence the mineralization of that region.