

The Hedley Gazette, which, on June 6th, announced the recent transaction above mentioned, included the following in its comments:—"Nobody knows much of the value of the property except the purchasers, who doubtless have evidence from their underground workings, though it was a comparatively easy matter to arrive at the conclusion that their situation meant much. This was apparent as soon as work was resumed in No. 4 tunnel of the Nickel Plate and ore extraction and development have gone on so extensively since then. What it means for this camp is simply this: it has most effectively exploded the old theory that the Hedley Gold Mining Company had within its 20 odd claims all that was of value in the camp." The Gazette further stated that the purchase price is \$150,000.

The Blue Bell Mine, Kootenay Lake.

While little is being published concerning what is being done at the old Blue Bell lead-silver mine, situated opposite Ainsworth, on the eastern shore of Kootenay Lake, it is known that good progress is being made with the installation of new plant and machinery requisite for the development of the mine below its main adit level, and enlargement of the capacity of its concentrating mill.

The Blue Bell has a noteworthy history, dating back to its discovery in 1825 by David Douglas, a Scottish botanist, who was investigating flora of the Kootenay Lake country. In the sixties the late Senator Hearst, of California, endeavoured to turn its ore to profitable account, but failed, and then in the eighties Dr. Hendryx and his Minnesota and Connecticut associates organized the Kootenay Mining and Smelting Company and acquired the property, in connection with which, about that time there was the quarrel between Hammill and Sproule, which resulted in the latter shooting the former and afterwards being hanged for the crime. Eventually the property passed to the possession of the Bank of Montreal. In 1905 it was purchased from the bank by the Canadian Metal Company, Ltd., and now it is owned by the New Canadian Metal Company, of which Mr. S. S. Fowler is general manager.

Figures showing the aggregate output of ore from the Blue Bell mine are not at present available, but it is known that there was shipped to the old smeltery at Pilot Bay during fifteen months ended March 31, 1896, 67,185 tons. During 1906 more than 10,000 tons was shipped by the Canadian Metal Company, also to Pilot Bay. By June, of 1908, the concentrating mill near the mine was completed, and between then and March, 1910, approximately 90,000 tons of ore was milled there. Reorganization of the Canadian Metal Company, which is a French proprietary, took place in 1911, and early in 1912 the work now being proceeded with was undertaken. There is still much ore in the mine, so it is expected that production on an important scale will be continued for a long time after the improvements now in hand shall have been completed.

Boundary District Notes.

From the Phoenix Pioneer it is learned that the Phoenix Mining, Smelting and Development Company has let a contract for development work to be done on the Duncan group of mineral claims, situated near Beaverdell, on the west fork of Kettle River, and recently bonded by that company. Silver-lead ore of good grade was shipped from this group in 1909.

The Riverside Mining Company, now that its Riverside mine, situated on Kettle River, a few miles above

Rock Creek, has been connected with the railway by a spur, will ship ore to the Granby smeltery at Grand Forks. For the present it is intended to ship three car-loads a week. The development of the mine was continued throughout last winter.

The quantity of ore produced by Boundary district mines during five months to June 1 was about 825,000 tons, of which approximately 483,000 tons was from the Granby Company's mines, and 342,000 tons from those of the British Columbia Copper Company.

According to the Boston Commercial, Mr. Newman Erb, president of the British Columbia Copper Company, had issued a formal statement to the effect that the executive committee would recommend to the directors at the next meeting of the board the resumption of payment of dividends at the rate of three per cent. (15 cents a share) quarterly only. The company is stated to have enough cash and metal in transit to pay a full year's dividend at that rate. The production of copper in May was 1,054,000 lbs., which was the largest output for any single month in the history of the company. Net earnings for May are reported as having been \$58,000.

From the Commercial it is also learned that the Granby Company will not begin construction work on the proposed new smeltery at its Hidden Creek property, on Observatory Inlet, until it has opened by underground workings, the large ore body which the diamond drill indicated contains considerable two per cent. ore. This work will take from four to five months to do.

General Mining Notes.

At the end of May the long low-level cross-cut tunnel being driven at the Slocan Star mine, near Sandon, Slocan, was in about 1,200 feet.

A long cross-cut tunnel is being driven at the Britannia mine, near Howe Sound, New Westminster mining division. When this shall be completed, ore will be conveyed from its portal down to the concentrating mill at Britannia Beach over an electrically-operated tramway.

The British Pacific Coal Company has been inviting tenders for an aerial tramway from the pitmouth to tidewater, the buckets to be suitable for conveying coal. A capacity of 300 tons in ten hours was to be provided for. Bids have also been asked on construction of a pier, or a loading wharf, and a bunker, at Skidegate Inlet, Graham Island, Queen Charlotte group.

The report that the Red Cliff Mining Company, which is developing a copper property in Portland Canal mining division, about a dozen miles from Stewart, had obtained an option on a controlling interest in the shares of the Tye Copper Company, Ltd., has been confirmed by news from London, England. The Tye smeltery at Ladysmith, Vancouver Island, has two blast furnaces of modern type, and is otherwise well equipped for smelting copper ore.

Production of Rossland mines during the first five months of 1912 has been at an average of rather more than 20,000 tons a month of ore. Of this output, a total of approximately 97,000 tons for the whole period has been received at the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company's smeltery at Trail. A comparatively small quantity was put through the Le Roi No. 2 Company's concentrating mill, which treats the ore of too low a grade for shipment to the smeltery without concentration.