

they are worth, in his *Klondyke Revue*, a financial journal that he publishes in Paris. In this and other respects he shows that he has nothing to learn of the ordinary British promoter, as regards the lavish advertisement of his various mining projects and their attendant possibilities.

It is to be hoped that the further experiments that are about to be made by Mr. Laird this season in the use of compressed air as a motor in developing the alluvial gold properties on Willow Creek, Cariboo, may prove successful, and result in a good output. Mr. Laird and those associated with him have sunk much capital and spent several seasons of persistent labor on this property, and it is to be hoped will reap in return, substantial results.

It is understood that certain land purchases, lately made by New Westminster men, in that part of Burnaby which, lying near the Brunette River, adjoins the Sapperton District of New Westminster, are based on an expectation that the areas include coal deposits. Old timers of the Royal City have long believed this, and there are certain outcroppings in the district in question which suggest that there is, underlying it, either coal or lignite. Expert local geologists are not, however, so sanguine as the land purchasers, that profitable marketable coal will be found in sufficient quantities so near New Westminster, and believe that the indications found point only to deposits of lignite, in extent and otherwise unlikely to lead to profitable working. It is, however, probable that boring tests will shortly be made in the land in question.

It is clear that the use in California of almost crude native mineral oil as an industrial fuel is to an appreciable extent limiting, and will, for some time, limit

the demand of that United States market for the Vancouver Island coal. The effect will, however, be less prejudicial than it would be, were it not that the cost of getting the oil is not greatly lower—taking the proportionate fuel values of the output—than that of mining coal on Vancouver Island. The effective competition of the California oil producer is consequently due mainly to two causes, one, the duty on imported coal, about 67 cents a ton; the other, the cost of transport. California oil cannot be carried to points in the State at any very great distance from its source,

without the attendant result of levelling up its price to that of British Columbia coal. Moreover, the oil springs of the chief present producing districts of California—those about Los Angeles—show signs that their large production will not be permanent, the flow having already diminished in many cases after a short period of use. It is, however, certain that a very considerable supply of the oil will be available for several years yet. Hence, for some seasons, it is to be expected that the California demand for Nanaimo coal will to some extent diminish. This may, and indeed would in part be compensated, if there be brought about, as hoped, a large development of mining and successful establishment of ore smelting on a considerable scale in connection with the copper properties in Mount Sicker, about

Alberni, and at various Coast points within easy reach of the Island coal districts.

In announcing through the medium of a circular to shareholders the contemplated calling up of the remaining levy of a shilling per share, with a view chiefly to effecting a saving in bank interest, and to facilitate the purchases of lead ores, the directors of the Hall Mining & Smelting Company have taken advantage of this opportunity to submit a statement



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