

is indeed a bright prospect for Rossland and should, in itself, be sufficient to build great expectations for everybody concerned." Meanwhile two Rossland mines have now been well developed below the 1,000-foot level, the Le Roi being now engaged in opening up a level at a depth of 1,350 feet, while the Kootenay has attained in its lowest workings a depth of 1,200 feet. The White Bear has a level at 850 feet, the Nickel Plate at 800 feet, and the War Eagle and Centre Star mines are developed to a depth equivalent to 600 feet at the Le Roi. From present indications there appears to be every promise that the values as depth is attained will be fairly maintained at a profitable margin, although not generally equal to the values obtained from immediate surface ores. The difference in this respect, however, has and continues to be largely discounted by the successful efforts that have been put forward to decrease operating and treatment costs, and the time is not far distant when even five-dollar ore will be mined at Rossland at a considerable profit. In itself a statement such as this does not sound very remarkable or startling; but it means nevertheless that the treatment of this grade of ore by the application of successful concentration methods will result in Rossland taking possibly equal rank in point of productive importance with such camps as Butte, Montana. No one meantime can doubt that Rossland has before it a very promising future.

Poplar Creek still continues to attract a great deal of notice, and many new "strikes" and discoveries of importance are reported to have made during the month in near-by localities, notably that of Copper Creek. Meanwhile a correspondent, a mining engineer of very high standing locally, in a personal letter to the editor of this periodical thus refers to the district: "There have been undoubtedly discoveries of very high-grade quartz—there are well defined veins of good size. This is good—very good so far as it goes—but that type of ore is notoriously irregular and uncertain and no man can predict what may result after the showings have been opened up. They may be better, they may be worse, or—nothing at all. For the present the discoveries are doing the country much good; they are putting fresh heart into the prospector. Where one man was out last year, there are ten this, and working with much more energy. Also it looks as if this might again direct the attention of capital to this country. We have been waiting quietly and patiently for some time. There is evidence of a very healthy progress. This may be what was required to start matters. But I don't think there will

be much of a wild-cat boom—everybody has been too badly bitten in the past."

One of the most interesting reports from the district in August was that platinum had been discovered in the ores, a sample from a claim adjoining the Gold Park property, having been forwarded to a well known assayer of Salt Lake, Utah, a return was received giving five ounces of platinum to the ton. The owners of the Gold Park subsequently had some ore tested, the result in this case being one ounce of platinum to the ton. Platinum in quartz has already been found in the Similkameen district and also in the Burnt Basin, but although these occurrences have been known some time, no determined attempt has been made to turn the discoveries to commercial account.

The *B. C. Review* (London) in two recent issues refers editorially to the extraordinarily unbusinesslike manner in which the affairs of the Slough Creek Company are being conducted, and from the evidence adduced it would certainly seem that our contemporary's strictures are most justly bestowed. At the statutory meeting of the re-organized company held in London last month—the concern has, by-the-way, been twice re-constructed—some very remarkable admissions were made by the directors, one to the effect that since February last the engineer in charge of the mine had disappeared altogether from the scene, operations having since continued under the direction of a foreman, who was either incapable or indisposed to furnish reports of progress to the Board. This the shareholders were unable to obtain any information of how their money had been spent during the past five months, and other instances were given in proof of the carelessness and imbecility of the directorate. As the directors, without exception, are notorious guinea-pigs, it is merely astonishing that matters are no worse than they are, and personally we have no sympathy to waste on the shareholders of the Slough Creek Company. The only cause for regret in connection with this miserable fiasco, is that the undertaking itself is one of undoubted significance, and if carried to a successful issue, as under proper auspices well might be the case, it is impossible to over-estimate the importance to the district as a whole if the ancient river channels in Cariboo are demonstrated by this plan of deep level mining to be highly auriferous. Hence in British Columbia there is a great desire that the enterprise should succeed; but it is quite plain that unless the shareholders take immediate steps for the removal from executive office of the men who in the past have so culpably ignored their responsibilities, no such consummation may ever be expected.

Since the above paragraph was penned late advices from London announce that at a special meeting of the Slough Creek Company a resolution introduced by shareholders to relieve the present Board of Directors of office was defeated. The more's the pity.