

In contrast to the reckless assertions, relative to the number of shipping mines there are in the Boundary district repeatedly made by certain local correspondents, the writer has persistently adhered to the statement that there are as yet only three properties (regarding the

Old Ironsides and Knob Hill group as one property) that may fairly be described as producers. In support of this contention it may here be pointed out that of the nearly 98,000 tons shipped in 1900 the

Old Ironsides and Knob Hill group produced 64,500 tons, the B. C. 19,500 tons and the Mother Lode 5,500 tons, leaving a balance of only 8,000 tons—the exact figures were 8,188 tons—as the production for the year of all the remaining “shipping mines” the boomers made so much of. This year's figures show an even greater disproportion, for of the 270,000 tons given as the total output for five months to September 30, the proportion of the Old Ironsides and Knob Hill group is 168,000 tons, of the Mother Lode 64,000 tons, and of the B. C. 34,000 tons, leaving only 4,000 tons for the remaining properties. In justice to the district, though, it must be pointed out that the Snowshoe, Brooklyn and Stenwinder group, Sunset group, Morrison, Jewel, Winnipeg and several others, are likely to add considerably to next year's total output, their present tonnage, in two or three instances at any rate, being infinitesimal as compared with the quantity of ore blocked out or otherwise made available for shipment whenever suitable freight and treatment arrangements shall have been made. To induce mine owners to ship to smelters in which they have no profit-sharing interest, freight and treatment rates on low grade ores will have to be lower than they have heretofore been, otherwise, and until some more advantageous arrangement can be made for treatment, the ore will in large measure be kept in the mines.

Deference is made above to the additions now being made to the two district smelters that have been in regular operation for some time past. The preparations for increasing the number of furnaces at the Granby Company's smelter, at Grand Forks, to four, and for putting in two copper converters, are well forward, but a delay has been caused by the non-arrival of the machinery.

WORK AT THE SMELTERS. The recent settlement of the steel strike should, however, admit of the manufacturers completing the plant, which should shortly be received at the smelter. With four furnaces running the management anticipates being able to treat between twelve hundred and thirteen hundred tons of ore a day, and it is believed that the company's Old Ironsides, Knob Hill and Victoria mines will be able to supply that quantity daily if necessary, but with the completion of the Grand Forks and Republic railway there will be a lot of custom ore coming from Republic and neighbouring mines, and this together with a share of the Boundary custom ores, will easily keep the enlarged smelter supplied to its full capacity. The B. C. Copper Company now has its Mother Lode mine in such shape that there is no concern felt as to a supply of ore for the Greenwood smelter, the capacity of which is now being increased to between 750 and 800 tons a day. More ore bins are being added for storage purposes and for convenience in handling the custom ores which are being received in increasing quantities. There is no progress to report in connection with the Standard Pyritic Company's smelter, which is now in the possession of the mortgagees. In the light of the relative positions of the B. C. Copper Company's smelter and the Pyritic smelter respectively to-day, the rash statements made last winter by boomers that the effect there was a race in progress between these two works and that the latter would likely be in operation as soon as the former, appear even more ridiculous than their romances about the “shipping mines.” The quantity of ore treated to September 30 by the former company's smelter at Greenwood is about 80,000 tons, with additions being made to its treatment capacity. The Pyritic smelter has done nothing but expose the district to reproach, for the outside public, ignorant of the facts attendant upon the attempted establishment in the district of these experimental works, naturally assume that they have failed of their purpose, whilst the truth is they have not been even completed, nor has there been any attempt to start the furnace. It has lately been announced that Chicago capitalists are likely to buy the concern and put it in working order. There does not appear to be any good reason to doubt that this smelter can be run successfully, treating ores in the ordinary manner should the pyritic method not be found to suit local ores, but the enterprise will have to be placed in the charge of a thoroughly practical man who has had successful experience, and not be left to the almost certain failure that necessarily attends the efforts, however well meaning, of novices. Other smelter talk is that the Montreal and Boston Copper Company, owning the Sunset group, near Greenwood, intends to put up its own smelter, but at present this project is in embryo. The Snowflake Company may find it necessary to have its own smelter, but in view of the experience that operations on a large scale are necessary to make a mining and smelting enterprise distinctly successful in the Boundary district it is probable that this British company will take time ere it launches into an undertaking that will involve the expenditure of a large amount of money.

The Snowshoe Company has thus far gone about its mining business in a thoroughly practical manner, doing good work, and extensively opening up the big body of ore that occurs on its Snowshoe property, so it may be expected to follow a similar business-like policy in dealing with the important question of making provision for the treatment of its ores so that a fair proportion of the profit coming from them may be

retained by the company. People in the district seem to have given up prophesying, and guessing, too, for that matter, as to when the Dominion Copper Company, of Toronto, will erect a smelter, whilst its location is now regarded as much more problematical. Mr. James Breen's name has for the time lost its power as one to conjure by, so the newspapers no longer contain “the latest” information, as to that gentleman's intentions. And yet the district makes steady progress, notwithstanding.

The progress being made at the three chief producing mines of the district is in large measure indicated by the figures given above respecting their output of ore. The development of the Granby Company's group is in keeping with the increasing requirements of its smelter, work being extensive both above and below ground. The surface openings or quarries are contributing very materially to the output of this group of mines and will do so on a larger scale as calls shall be made upon the property to send out more ore. The B. C. Copper Company, too, is similarly preparing for an enlarged output, but for the time operations here will not equal in magnitude those at the Granby mines. This company's Mother Lode mine continues to fully justify the expectations of those who have found the money to develop it, the surface workings as well as the stopes at the 200 and 300-foot levels yielding large quantities of ore that can be treated at a profit. The B. C. Chartered Company's B. C. mine is being thoroughly prospected at its lowest level, the diamond drill still being used freely in exploring the ground.

Of the other mines not yet producing on so large a scale as those just mentioned the Snowshoe takes first place. The ore bodies are being so opened up, both below ground and by surface openings, as to make them accessible for maintaining regularly a considerable output so soon as the management shall have made suitable arrangements for the treatment of the ore. Facilities for shipping, such as chutes, ore bins, railway connections, etc., are being provided and mine buildings to accommodate 70 to 80 men are being erected. It is probable that before the year closes the Snowshoe will be among the larger shipping mines of the district. There is not much information obtainable respecting the Dominion Copper Company's Brooklyn and Stenwinder group, but it is known that the power plant is being added to and that development is being continued. The Winnipeg has attracted much notice of late, and apparently deservedly so. Development has been pushed with much energetic perseverance and the persistent efforts of the management have been rewarded by the discovery of two bodies of ore, the existence of which at the 300-foot level was not previously known, and now ore of excellent grade is being mined from what is known as the railway ledge. It is expected more information will be available shortly, and if so it will be given in next month's letter. The Golden Crown has not yet resumed work. The R. Bell has suspended, and nothing has lately been made public as to what is to be done at the Blue Bell, lying near the B. C. The Jewel, in Long Lake camp, is still steadily at work, but no information of unusual importance has lately come from that very promising mine. The sinking of the shaft on the northeast ledge is being proceeded with, and crosscutting to endeavour to meet the ledge at 500 feet depth is being continued.

In Deadwood camp the Montreal and Boston Copper Company's Sunset and Crown Silver properties are being got into shape for regular shipping. Additions are being made to the power plant and ore bins, railway tracks and mine buildings are being put in. Following the lead of other mines, surface openings in ore are also being made. The Sunset group should ere long be in a position to maintain regular shipments. Not much is heard of the Morrison, but development work is in progress and the mine is receiving much more practical than newspaper attention. The King Solomon, in Copper camp, has commenced to send out some high-grade carbonate copper ore. The Ruby, in Smith's camp; the Lake, in Skylark camp, and the No. 7, in Central camp, are the only others that call for mention this month, all three being at work and promising to come into more prominent notice by and bye.

YMR.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The extensive operations now proceeding in connection with the big cyanide plant in course of erection at the Ymir mine, is quite changing the aspect of the Wild Horse valley. A large acreage in this valley has been purchased by the Ymir Co. and the timber which was very plentiful has all been cut, making many thousand cords of wood. At the junction of the North Fork with the main Wild Horse creek a large track has been graded out on which the cyanide plant will be erected. The building covering the tanks will be 500 feet long. Besides this large building a number of other buildings and dwellings are in course of erection between the stamp mill and the cyanide works, so that the place has the appearance of a new town. The stamp mill is keeping up to its average of 200 tons per day, the last monthly returns indicating a net profit over and above expenses, of \$26,600. This brings the total net profits for the present year to over \$150,000. The long crosscut tunnel which is being run to tap the vein at the 1000-foot level is now in about 1500 feet, with 600 feet further to go.

CYANIDE
PLANT AT
THE YMR.