

benefits the Hudson's Bay Co., than has been expended on the Quesnelle in 10 years.

So far this season, we have had *mails, only* by the 43rd Mining & Milling Co's pack train, and in past seasons the Manager, Lt.-Col. Wright, has always had our mail brought in; there is no reason why a monthly mail service should not be established and operated from Quesnelle to Fort St. James, and thence to Manson's Creek for at least five months—say May to September. Thanking you for the space,

A PROSPECTOR.

Manson's Creek, B.C., Omenica Dist.

"MINES AND METHODS." REPLY TO MR. HOLDICH.

TO THE EDITOR:—Noticing the article by A. H. Holdich in your September number, dealing with "Mines and Methods," and in support of his contention quoting from a list of assays given on page 40 of the July number of the *Mining Record*, we believe that he has hardly taken a fair example upon which to base his argument. These assays were not quoted with the idea or intention of misleading anyone as to the values of the ore at the smelter, but were given as showing assay values only, and nothing in the article claims that these values can be obtained at the smelter. Mr. Holdich has apparently overlooked the fact that transportation from the district in question to Swansea, Wales, is quoted at \$5.00 per ton, and the smelters at that point pay \$1.50 per unit for copper and full value of 100 per cent. for gold and silver. Taking the same assay quoted by him, and throwing off the half per cent. copper, the 12 cents over and above the \$4.00 in gold, and the 2.10 once silver, this would give \$9.00 for the copper, \$4.00 for the gold, and \$3.00 for the silver, making a total of \$16.00. Deducting \$5.00 freight and \$5.50 for treatment quoted by the smelter people, leaves \$5.50 for cost of extraction and transportation to the beach, which will more than cover this expense as soon as such transportation has been provided, as it is a known fact that the Le Roi mine, with its elaborate system of hoisting and pumping, are extracting ore at about \$2.00 per ton. This proposition being susceptible of tunnel development, thereby eliminating the expensive process of hoisting and pumping, should certainly be expected to produce ore at an even less expense. This justifies the contention of the owners of the properties that they can be made to pay the cost of development from the beginning, as the values can be reasonably expected to increase as development extends beyond the influence of the elements. Taking the later assays given in the list—and they are all strictly from surface outcrops—it is not difficult to see that there are ore chutes in the Quatsino properties that will more than pay the cost of extraction, development and treatment. These assays are not from picked samples, but are the averages of the different ore chutes sampled, and the solid ore, of a uniform character, shows upon the surface in chutes a number of feet wide, and in some instances approximating 300 feet in length.

The great advantage the Quatsino district has over, say Boundary Creek and other copper camps, is its magnificent transportation facilities and accessibility. It is not dependent upon, or subject to, the caprice and extortion of any transportation company, but the field is open to all; and since the decline of the Klondike excitement it is easy to make contracts with any number of vessels capable of handling this business, at very moderate figures, provided the tonnage is ready to move to the smelters at Tacoma, Everett, or San Francisco; and it is a known fact that agents of the Swansea smelters are prepared to take ores from the coast properties, arranging for their own transportation to their smelters in Wales. Of course, the prospect for a smelter in that immediate vicinity is one that must be relegated to the future, until the mines there have been sufficiently developed to justify the erection of such a plant, which, on account of the immediate proximity of a number one article of coking coal, iron and lime, can treat this class of ore at a very low rate. With the proper investment of capital in these properties that time should not be far distant.

It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the owners of the properties in this district are not financially able to develop them upon the scale justified by the surface indications. Comstock mountain rises directly from the sea to an elevation of 2,500 feet, and is densely wooded and exceedingly rugged, and although the most remote claim is not to exceed a mile and a-half from tide-water, trails and waggon roads must

be constructed at considerable expense before these properties can begin shipping ore.

There is no question but that with the present great demand and favorable outlook for copper, this camp is absolutely certain to attract attention, as, to the best of our knowledge and belief, few districts can show as high averages of copper values with as little development as can this, and no exorbitant prices have been asked for these properties, the terms so far quoted by the owners having been most liberal as to time bonds and payments. Of course the camp is yet comparatively new and does not aspire to make a position for itself by detracting from the advantages of any other district. It only desires to become known, and asks nothing more than a fair and impartial investigation by men competent to judge of its possibilities. Point by point, and feature for feature, however, the Quatsino district will not concede precedence to any other in British Columbia, and it will take but a reasonable length of time to demonstrate the truth of this assertion.

W. H. FORTIER AND
H. WARNER.

Spokane, Wash.

"A SIGN OF THE TIMES."

TO THE EDITOR:—Many and various have been the sketches and descriptions of Canada, but I have failed to come across a better and more truthful article on the subject than that contained in the issue of the *British Columbia Review* of the 27th of August last, under the heading "A Sign of the Times," and I look forward to much good resulting therefrom. Why does not Mr. Cooke, who has done so much for tourists, do more to direct travel of this description to a land more beautiful than Switzerland, offering opportunity for finer sport than the Urals, and presenting chances for investment greater than any country under the sun. For the *blase* tourist here is something entirely new—a country where a man can combine business with pleasure at one and the same time.

Of course when once the beaten tracks of travel by rail or steamer are left behind, the many luxuries of old world civilization cannot be obtained, but the more exciting incidents of camp life will amply reward the pleasure seeker.

Much has been said of late about the hardships and danger of travel in the North, and our papers teem with letters and reports of experiences in those regions by gold-seekers; but why go so far and risk so much when equally good chances may be met with in portions of this Province, and without the occasion of undergoing a tithe of the discomforts. Once, for instance, capital is introduced and applied in a business-like manner, the Okanagon Valley will become a real Eldorado.

We were recently honoured by a visit from the Chief of the Geological Department of the Dominion, Dr. Dawson, who inspected some of the claims near Vernon, and he was exceedingly pleased with what he saw, strongly advising the continuance of work at the Blue Jay and on the Bon Diable Co.'s claims, on which properties considerable work has been already done. But these properties by no means complete the list of good prospects in the vicinity.

F. ADRIAN MEYER.

Vernon, B.C.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

OWING to pressure on space this month, enquirers will receive replies by letter, instead of under this heading as usual.

THE METAL MARKET.

[Compiled from special telegraphic quotations to the B.C. MINING RECORD, from the *Engineering & Mining Journal*, New York.]

BUSINESS has this month been generally good, and activity has been displayed in nearly all departments.

SILVER.

The rise in silver has been a particularly pleasing and notable feature. The market has been steady and the demand good, the East principally taking the offerings. On the 1st of the month prices advanced from 59½ to 60, reaching 60½ by the 10th. Our quotations to-day (September 25th) are 60½, 61. Prices have not been so high since May, 1897. The average price of silver for August of last year was 54.9, and for last month 59.54. The rise has been steady since March when the average monthly price was 54.90.