

GOLDEN RIVER QUESNELLE, LIMITED.

The report of the directors presented to the shareholders at the second annual ordinary general meeting of the company, states: Since the 30th June, a further sum of £5500 has been sent out, making a total to date of £44,000. The directors are assured by the engineers in charge, in a report dated 1st October last, that although the works are of a much more substantial and expensive character than originally intended, he is confident of being able to complete the whole work under the original estimate, viz., £46,000. The directors expected that the engineering works would have been completed and mining operations commenced; but a most exceptional season has interfered to prevent this being done. The prolonged heat of the weather during the summer months caused an excessive quantity of snow to be melted in the high ranges of mountains in the neighborhood of Quesnelle Lake. This, combined with an exceptionally heavy rainfall in the autumn, has been the means of keeping the water of the lake at a much higher level than in ordinary years and delaying for some three months the falling of the water in the Quesnelle River sufficiently to allow of work being commenced on the dam. The greatest advantage will be taken of the short time left before the severe weather sets in to test the richness of the river bed, but the board fear it will be the spring of next year before they will be able to prosecute regular mining operations. Mr. McGillivray has been actively engaged in making preparations to commence mining immediately the state of the water permits and also in constructing a wagon road. As this road will be of public advantage, it is hoped the government will take it over and recoup the company for its outlay.

A DOUBTFUL OFFER.

The offer of a Mr. T. C. Elgie to put up reduction works at Rossland that will treat successfully and profitably very low grade ore of \$10 a ton value in consideration of the transfer of valuable water rights in and about the city, is considered by many to be a shrewd move directed with a view to obtain all the water supply in sight for electric lighting and waterworks purposes. Mr. Elgie and his associates are, in fact, deemed to have in view rather the production of light and the supply of public water on profitable terms, than the successful prosecution of a difficult, and, as many regard it, hopeless attempt to treat \$10 ore of the Trail Creek type. Few in Rossland amongst the experts believe the thing possible with profit to the mineowner. They consider that under present circumstances it will not pay to treat \$10 ore until some new and powerful chemical method shall have been discovered.

IRISH IRON MINING.

An exchange states, that Ireland is now enjoying the unwonted excitement of a little mining boom. It is a well known fact that good iron beds were fifty years ago worked on the shores of Lough Allen, county Leitrim, and an effort is now being made to revive the industry. A smelter is in course of erection on the ground, and there is every prospect of good returns. It is proposed to use peat, of which there is an unlimited supply, as fuel, and a peat-drying and pressing plant has been laid down. The enterprise will furnish welcome employment to a large number of needy peasantry. There is limestone in abundance for smelting, and it is estimated that 30,000,000 tons of bituminous coal lie within the counties of Leitrim, Mayo, Sligo and Roscommon, in addition to the immense deposits in Kilkenny. Some years ago the copper mines of Bonmahon, county Waterford, were abandoned as unprofitable. In those days the process of treatment was as expensive as it was tedious, but with modern appliances there is no reason why the Bonmahon mines could not be worked at a respectable profit. Ore of a much lower grade would be considered very valuable even in British Columbia. Practical miners who have worked in the Waterford mines, and who are employed in the neighboring camps, verify the fact. Few things will more greatly benefit the "distressful country" than successful coal, copper and iron mining.

A THREATENED SMELTER COMBINE.

It is now stated that the many smelter proprietors, and proprietary companies of the Western States and Canada are attempting to form a solid combine to limit competition strictly and raise prices. Meanwhile mineowners are on the alert to prevent mischief, which, if the danger proves likely to be serious, the Dominion government should be able very largely to prevent by anti-combine legislation. As regards ores of the British Columbia coast, the effective competition of the Swansea smelting industrialists should in any case largely neutralize the threatened mischief, far away though the seat of that South Wales industry is. Swansea can fortunately be reached cheaply, if slowly, by ocean transport.

THE LUCKY JIM.

The Lucky Jim shipped for the week ending Nov. 23rd 470 tons of concentrating ore to the smelter at Pilot Bay, a respectable average of 67 tons a day, which, however, it is hoped to double shortly. The ore is stated to concentrate about five into one, thus producing nearly fourteen tons of high grade concentrates per diem.