

SOME NOTES FROM THE MINING CAMPS.

ATLIN.

STEADY and satisfactory progress is reported from all the mining districts of the Province. Returns of the season's operations in Atlin are of a generally favourable nature, although early in the year work was seriously interfered with by high water, followed by labour troubles. Nevertheless, it is thought that the gold yield will again show a further increase. Good returns have already been received from McKee, Birch, Wright, Otter, Slate and Pine creeks, while there is every prospect that the clean-up on Boulder Creek will be exceptionally heavy. The British American Dredging Company recently completed the installation of a dredging plant, at the cost of \$200,000, on its property in this district, and more attention has been directed this year to the development of quartz prospects. Last month a large sale was effected of 1,900 acres of bench and creek leases on McKee and Eldorado Creeks, and preparations have already been made for the equipment of this property in readiness for the early commencement of mining operations next spring.

Some interesting exploratory work has been prosecuted during the summer beyond the boundaries of the known mineralized area in the Atlin district. In one instance efforts in this direction have apparently met with the promise of success, and large deposits of auriferous gravel in the upper water shed of Dixie Creek, to the southeast of Pine-Spence Valley, have yielded by preliminary test very fair returns. The syndicate undertaking this work installed during the season a small hydraulic plant and constructed 2,500 feet of ditching, with a view to commencing other washing operations next spring. There is meanwhile strong grounds for the belief that in this and other mining districts of the Province much attention will be directed next year to the exploitation of the unexplored mineral areas. In Poplar Creek, for example, the authority of so well informed a man as Mr. John Keen, president of the Mining Association, is likely to attract as many as five thousand prospectors when the spring opens, but as all the available ground on this creek and its vicinity has already been staked for many miles, it follows that the men who go in will strike out for the comparatively unknown territory beyond. Again in the case of the Similkameen and the west fork of the Kettle—the latter, it is expected, to be shortly opened up by a railway—prospecting is becoming much more active.

CASSIAR.

Hydraulic operations on Thibert Creek have been concluded for the season, the company having met with very fair success considering that work was necessarily restricted by unfavourable weather conditions to which a shortage in water supply is attributable. The value of the clean-up is reported to have been between twenty-five and thirty thousand dollars, which compares very favourably with last year's results.

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

Regular shipments have commenced from Marble Bay, Texada. The Lenora, Mt. Sicker, continues to ship steadily, the grade of ore being, it is reported, higher. Coke is still being imported from Seattle as well as Comox, and a shipment of 3,000 tons from the other side has been delivered in box cars, via the Great Northern.

LILLOOET.

In the Bridge River district development work has been steadily prosecuted at the Ben d'Or, Lorne and Pioneer mines, while the Anderson Lake mines have made this year a very satisfactory showing, last month's clean-up having been a record one. Placer enterprise at North Fork has, however, been somewhat restricted by water shortage, but better results have been achieved had the machinery now on its way to the mine arrived earlier. Three thousand five hundred dollars is reported to have been recovered by the owners of the Lorne mine, who employ an arrastra in crushing the ore.

NICOLA.

Mr. B. F. August, a mining engineer of Columbia, Ohio,

who recently visited the coal deposits at Coldwater, in the Nicola district, has expressed a very favourable opinion of the extent of the occurrences in that region, and for certain purposes the quality is all that could be desired. The chief present value of coal deposits in the interior depends largely on the coke-making properties of the material, and by present utilized processes in this Province, it does not yet appear that the Nicola coal in general would make a good coke. Mr. August believes, however, that a market for this coal could be found as far east as St. Paul, while he is by no means uncertain that it may not also be turned into account in the development of a local smelting industry.

ROSSLAND.

The Le Roi Company's last monthly report is decidedly more favourable in character than either the July and August reports. Not only are the returns for the month higher, the estimated profits being \$17,000, but the manager intimates that an ore body over 100 feet has been located by diamond drilling at the 1,350-foot level.

The result of the preliminary trial runs of the new Elmore plant at Rossland are reported to have been eminently satisfactory. The mill has been in operation for the past two weeks, and from the results already obtained it is expected that it will be at least possible to make an average recovery of 90 per cent of the values. On one run a \$3 ore yielded concentrates carrying \$30 values, while there was practically no loss in tailings. With the plant as at present constituted, costs, it is expected, should not exceed \$2 per ton. The Le Roi No. 2 mine for treatment by this plant has large reserves of both high-grade milling ore, ranging from \$8 to \$15 a ton and also an accumulation on the dumps of second-class material averaging less than \$6.

Another successful mill run has been made by the lessees of the I X L mine, the clean-up after eleven days' working representing \$1,800. The work of building heavy bulkheads, to close the ends of drifts on the six and eight hundred foot levels in the Nickel Plate mine, undertaken with a view to prevent the flow of water into the adjoining Centre Star property has now been completed. The Centre Star Company entered suit against the Nickel Plate some six months since, claiming damage on account of the sweepage of water in question, and in consequence the present attempt has been made by the latter to overcome the cause of complaint. Whether the measures adopted will prove efficacious, remains yet to be seen; hence the adjournment of the hearing of the case until December next.

NELSON.

The Athabasca-Venus appears to be in a more satisfactory position than for some time past, although it is doubtful whether the original shareholders will ever be able to realize fully on their investment. More attention has been paid of late to development work, but at the same time the monthly tonnage output of between seven and eight hundred tons has been steadily maintained. At the Athabasca some promising new stopes have been opened, and at the greater depth attained the formation appears to be less broken. Of course, if this last report is true, it will make the very widest difference in the position of the company, as the sole reason of failure heretofore may be attributed to the excessive cost of extracting the ore and developing the mine in a locality where geological disturbances were so great.

BOUNDARY.

The Granby mines in the Boundary district are installing two additional steam shovels for use in loading ore into the railway cars. Work on the new tunnel projected to reach the workings of the Old Ironsides mine at the 300-foot level has been commenced. There is decided activity throughout this district, and development work has recently been resumed on a number of the smaller properties.

FAIRVIEW.

In the Fairview district the Dominion Company has resumed operations and work is to at once proceed in the