

of the snow slides and also the fact that the company has no quarters for their men during the winter. In the spring buildings will be erected and work pushed extensively. Jas. Cronin is superintending the development.

The Goodenough has worked a small force this summer and taken out about two cars of rich zinc ore and one car of lead. This property is near the Reco and is chiefly owned and worked by J. A. Whittier.

The Bachelor group, near Three Forks, and which is under lease and bond to Low, Cameron and Sloan, has worked some 15 men all summer and shipped considerable ore. At the present time it is not working on account of a deal pending.

Besides the above-mentioned properties several small ones are working a few men, notably the Colonial, Majestic, Sunshine, Slocan Sovereign and Cinderella.

The Whitewater mine at Whitewater, which is under lease from the company to Retallick, Fowler and Koch, is looking well and they are employing about 25 men and working the mill one shift, turning out over 120 tons of lead concentrates per month beside double this amount of zinc concentrates; they also ship considerable clean ore. This partnership has also the Whitewater Deep under lease, from which it is extracting some rich ore.

#### SILVERTON CAMP.

This camp has made marked progress in the past year and should be the liveliest camp the coming summer, several deals of large sums having been made. The Standard which was owned by Briggs and Grady, and under lease to Finch and Aylard, has been purchased by the latter people for some \$27,000. Buildings are being erected and quite a large force is employed. This property promises to be one of the largest mines of the camp as it has large bodies of ore, both concentrating and clean, in its lower levels. The Vancouver, which is under lease and bond to M. S. Davys of Nelson, and purchased from him for a very good sum by the Le Roi No. 2 Company of Rossland, is looking very well and employing quite a force of men. A new tramway has been erected to connect the mine with the Wakefield mill and the mill is being put in shape for large shipments. This property is credited with having large reserves of ore. The Hewitt is looking very well and shipping regularly, working about 15 men. It is in charge of J. Stillwell. The McAllister group on the north fork of Carpenter creek, about four miles from Three Forks, has been under lease and bond to Sandon people from W. Hunter of Silverton. The bond has been taken up and the property purchased. The owners shipped one very rich car of ore. It is a dry ore proposition.

These are facts worth noting—the carefully and officially estimated value of the mineral production of British Columbia in 1906 exhibits an increase of quite 50 per cent. over that of 1903, and 250 per cent over that of 1896.

## THE PROVINCIAL MINERALOGIST ON EXTRA-LATERAL RIGHTS.

EXTRA-LATERAL RIGHTS in British Columbia have lately been commented on by the Provincial Mineralogist in the following letter to *Economic Geology*:—

Sir,—Extra-lateral rights, to the dip, bounded by the production of the planes passing through the end lines, together with a claim of 1,500 ft. long by 600 ft. wide, existed in British Columbia, at least as far back as 1884—which was prior to any productive lode mining—and continued until April 23, 1892, when it was repealed and a rectangular claim 1,500 ft. by 1,500 ft. was substituted therefor with rights only within four vertical planes through the four sides. This Act of 1892, of course, did not invalidate any rights acquired prior to its passage.

These "old style claims" have proved a fruitful source of litigation and some important suits are still pending. With the vertical lines there can be no dispute except as to accuracy of survey, with occasional disputes as to identity and location of record posts, which troubles are incident to any style of location.

In making the change from 600 to 1,500 ft. wide, it was intended, by the extra width given, to about compensate the miner for the loss of the extra-lateral rights.

I have been all over British Columbia and have probably come in contact with a greater number of mining men, both operators, miners and prospectors, than anyone else and I have only found one man who even suggested a preference for the "extra-lateral rights" system.

This gentleman had lived the greater part of his life in California and is by profession a hydraulic placer miner, to which branch alone he has confined his attention in British Columbia.

This public endorsement of the vertical boundaries system is the more emphatic, inasmuch as the majority of our mining men are from the United States, or have had their experience there. They came with preconceived ideas and have been converted. The public in British Columbia is firmly fixed in its adherence to this principle.

Personally, from the standpoint of a disinterested observer, obliged to officially observe, I have not the slightest hesitancy in endorsing most emphatically vertical lines, in preference to extra-lateral rights—as giving a more secure title, freedom from litigation and the doing away with the crushing, through weight of expensive litigation, of the poor by the richer individuals or corporations.

WILLIAM F. ROBERTSON,  
Provincial Mineralogist.

It is expected that an output averaging between 4,000 and 5,000 tons of ore per month will shortly be maintained at the Emma mine, Boundary district.