

ANOTHER GOLD SAVING PROCESS

[Communicated.]

The article, "A Doubtful Venture," in last week's *Critic*, based upon present methods of trying to save fine gold, is correct.

Many rivers of British Columbia, the Frazer especially, contain gold in so fine a state that it is impossible to save it by mechanical means.

The ocean beaches, notably those about Capes Commerell and Mudge, have also gold in this condition. Flour gold, in paying quantities, is also found in the North Saskatchewan, Brazean, McLeod, Arthabaska, Peace and other northern rivers. For years miners have made wages on the North Saskatchewan by using blankets and matting, but only saved a small portion of the gold.

The problem of recovering flour and float gold has long engaged the attention of investors. As the specific gravity of the particles is the same, or less than the surrounding material, it follows that other means than mechanical must be used to accomplish the object. Quicksilver, from its affinity for gold, is the only medium to effect the saving cheaply. Many machines have been invented to utilize it, but apparently with small success, as none is in general use. This reproach can no longer be made. There has lately been invented by Mr. Louis C. Park a machine which promises to solve the problem. Several tests have been made with sand containing gold so finely divided as to be almost invisible, five assays of the tallings giving the merest traces. It is constructed on principles so simple that it seems a wonder no one thought of the contrivance before. It consists of facilities for forcing pulp, or sand, through quicksilver by the gravity of water, with baffle plates to insure thorough immersion. It is operated with little trouble and cost, compared with copper plates. The machine is moreover made in sizes adapted to the individual miner, stamp-mills, and dredges. It has attachments for heating the quicksilver, and for the electrical forming of sodium amalgam, features considered very desirable, with a view to amalgamate particles more or less refractory. Possessing these qualities, its makers claim that it should prove the ideal amalgamator, in which case it should increase enormously the field for placer mining, making available a source of great wealth.

[The *MINING CRITIC* has pleasure in printing the above note, and hopes that the invention may prove as successful as its owners confidently expect, for it would in such case add vastly to the realizable wealth of our Province.—ED.]

The Payne mine is now reported to be shipping 40 tons a day, and ready to in-

THE IBEX COMPANY.

The Ibox Mining & Development Co., of Slocan, Ltd., incorporated under a capital stock of \$300,000 in \$1 shares, is working the Ibox, Lidderdale, Triangle and Gift Edge claims in the Kaslo district and selling stock for development purposes at 30 cents a share. In respect of this the directorate reports as follows:

"Work on shafts, tunnel and drifts is being vigorously pushed, and the production of ore is exceedingly encouraging. On June 30th the first shipment of ore this season was made, and run through the sampler of the Kootenay Ore Company, showing a gross value of \$87.02 per ton, the assay being 74 ounces silver, 73 per cent lead. Sufficient work has been done to demonstrate that the Ibox can produce a large amount of ore of a good grade for an indefinite period. A quantity of ore is now sacked at the mine ready for shipment, and this quantity is being daily added to. Owing to the fact that the mine is $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from its shipping point, $3\frac{1}{2}$ of which is over a mountain trail, the cost of backing the ore down is a considerable item of expense. By operating a cable tramway the distance could be shortened 25 per cent, and a saving of at least 50 per cent effected in cost of transportation. In order to carry out this necessary work the company propose to sell sufficient treasury stock."

Of this company Mayor S. B. Steele of Macleod, Alberta, is president, and W. J. Tretheway, M. E., consulting engineer.

EAST KOOTENAY'S RETURNS.

The mineral output of West Kootenay is regularly chronicled week by week and widely noted by the press. Meanwhile the most meager notes of East Kootenay's output appear only at distant intervals. The present yield of the district is relatively modest but steadily growing, and the customs officials and press of East Kootenay might well cooperate to give further publicity to the ore shipments of East Kootenay. Not a few provincial papers chronicle West Kootenay's output as "Kootenay's ore shipments," thus wholly ignoring East Kootenay's additional contribution.

THE MONTE CRISTO.

This Rossland mine, on which, under new management, work recommenced a short time since, is being worked in conjunction with the Colonna, two drills being at work in rick-looking ore. But it will be some time ere the mine becomes a shipper, as the cost of ore treatment must be reduced ere this can be done with profit.

A PROMISING AID TO MINING.

The Victoria Metallurgical Works has just begun work in Victoria, and has every expectation of doing a large amount of assaying, sampling and other work, and being well equipped with chlorinator and other appliances, and possessing a stamp mill of 20 tons daily capacity. The works will, under the management of its proprietor, Mr. W. J. R. Covele, F. G. S., prove of great service in aiding the testing and preliminary development of—amongst many others doubtless—coast and island precious metal claims. Goodly consignments of ore from the Victoria-Texada and Alberni-Consolidated mines are being passed through the works, which should incidentally bring to Victoria not a little general mining business, in addition to making a good business record for its enterprising proprietor. The *MINING CRITIC* wishes the endeavor all possible success.

THE RECO MINE.

This good dividend paying silver-lead mine of the Slocans is busy packing ore, though not sending out very large shipments at present, pending the provisions of further tramway and concentrating facilities. One good feature of the mine organization is the care taken for the comfort of the employees, which naturally tends to good service by capable men. The working force at the mine will shortly be greatly increased, probably from 38, the present number, to 250, and when the aerial tramway and its connections, 9000 feet long in all, and the new concentrator are constructed and in working order, the Reco's shipments will be large and continuous, and even the present ones, though not numerous, run to goodly total figures, since the ore runs in silver from 400 to 600 ounces to the ton.

AT AINSWORTH.

Here the mine owners hope to see the too-long-closed Pilot Bay smelter again running ere long. They are very opposed to the placing of an export duty on their low grade silver-lead ores, as this will in their opinion close the American market against them and cause the mines of the camp to cease working in most cases.

THE SLOCAN OUTPUT.

The Slocan output for 1907 to date in ores and concentrates exceeds 19,000 tons, and steady and satisfactory progression is almost everywhere the order of the day in this rich silver-lead