

smelting pay ore are estimated at about \$20,000 tons, averaging \$10 smelter's gross assay value.

"A preliminary mill of 200 tons daily capacity, but designed for prompt enlargement to 400 tons, is now being built by the Rossland Power Company, Limited, and is located upon the line of the Canadian Pacific near the town of Trail. It is expected to begin operations by early spring, affording the desired outlet for the milling ores of the War Eagle and Centre Star mines.

"An examination of the cost sheet will show that the costs per foot for raises and drifts have been brought to lower figures than hitherto, while the stoping cost has been kept down approximately to the minimum record. The width, shape and distribution of the War Eagle smelting ore bodies are not so favourable for cheap stoping as those of the Centre Star vein, so that even with the same skill and economy the minimum cost figure is necessarily higher than that of the Centre Star vein.

"The mine produced 60,093 tons of ore during 1903 of a real or full assay value of \$13 per ton. The smelter net value of this ore f.o.b. cars at the mine was \$5.31. The expense of production was \$2.82 per ton. Development cost 44 cents per ton of ore shipped. The following charges are made per foot: Drilling, \$17.06; winzings, \$30.70; raising, \$26.29; stoping, \$2.90.

"Since 1894, during which year the mine shipped 48 tons, the War Eagle has produced 240,465 tons of ore worth \$5,152,109.11. With milling it is impossible to calculate the value of the ore that remains in the mine, but it is stupendous.

"The past development of the mine has shown large bodies of ore too low in grade for smelting, but of sufficient grade to promise a handsome profit to successful milling. Now that the mill of the Rossland Power Company assures an outlet for these ores within a few months, their contents will soon be available. It is impossible to present any reliable estimate of their quantity or precise value, because their limits have not been defined, and until milling begins they cannot be exposed and sampled accurately without excessive expense. They occur in extensive bodies, and exposed very imperfectly by the mine workings, since these have in the past been directed to the exposure of smelting ore bodies only.

"The serious obstacle presented to large scale milling by the so-called 2 per cent. tax imposed by the British Columbia Government upon the gross product of mines has not yet been removed. This tax has the peculiar effect of exacting an increasing proportion of the net profits as the grade of ore lowers. For instance, on milling grades of the War Eagle and other Rossland mines is will take anywhere from 10 to 20 per cent of the net profits, which greatly increases the difficulty of securing capital for milling operations. The disastrous effect of this tax in repressing the mining and milling of low-grade ores throughout the province has forced the mining communities to join in active measures for its repeal, and the matter is being steadily pressed by the Provincial Mining Association. It is hoped that the new Legislature will not longer delay the relief so urgently demanded by popular sentiment.

#### SOME NOTES FROM THE MINING CAMPS.

##### THE COAST.

IT is reported that active operations are to be commenced this spring on the Britannia mines, at Howe Sound, instructions having been received by the local Vancouver agents from New York to that effect. Should this report be true the working of the Britannia, which is undoubtedly one of the most remarkable deposits of low-grade copper ore in British Columbia, should appreciably affect this year's copper-gold production of the Coast districts.

##### THE NEW ALEK PLACERS.

Mr. T. A. Dickson, a land surveyor resident at White Horse, affords the following interesting information anent

the new Alek diggings: The district in which these important placers have been found is situated about 160 miles west of White Horse and 25 miles north, and is connected with White Horse by a fairly good trail. The diggings so far discovered and partly worked are situated on the watershed of two rivers, Alek and White. On the former are the two creeks, Fourth of July and Ruby, and on the latter Bullion and Sheep creeks.

The White River is an important branch of the Yukon, and flows to the north, and the Alek River is an independent river, which flows south into the ocean through Alaskan territory. Bullion and Sheep creeks drain into Klaune Lake, a body of water 60 miles long, which is drained again by the White River. The diggings are situated roughly, 75 miles east of the boundary between Alaska and Yukon Territory. There are sixty miners on Bullion Creek this winter sinking to bed-rock on their claims. There is any quantity of spruce fir in the district for lumber for building, fluming, etc., and the probabilities are a sawmill will be established there in the early summer.

A number of miners left White Horse on the 25th January last to sink to bed-rock on Fourth of July and Ruby creeks. The whole camp is controlled from White Horse for supplies, police and mining recording, and already there is a patrol of Mounted Police in the district. The pioneer discovery party, headed by a Mr. Smith, got the discovery claims free, i.e., they are exempt from the 2 per cent. royalty, and are thus well repaid for the hardships endured in prospecting this valuable and vast tract of country. On Bullion Creek a hole forty feet by six yielded \$750, and in short the field, from present report appears to be well worthy the miner's attention.

##### ATLIN.

The New Nimrod Company, Limited, has been registered in England, with a capital of £75,000 in £1 shares, to adopt an agreement with the Nimrod Syndicate Limited, operating in the Atlin district, to acquire and amalgamate the undertakings of certain companies therein mentioned (but not set forth in the registered documents), to carry on, assist, or participate in any financial, commercial, mercantile, industrial, manufacturing, mining, and other business. No initial public issue. The number of directors is not to be less than three nor more than seven. The signatories are to appoint the first. Qualification, 200 shares. Remuneration, £525 per annum and 5 per cent. of the profits, divisible (such percentage not to exceed £2,000 in any year).

##### CARIBOO.

The snowfall this year has been exceptionally heavy, there being now five feet on the level, and consequently an adequate water supply for hydraulic mining purposes this season is practically assured. Meanwhile work is in steady progress at the drift mines on Slough Creek and Willow River.

##### KAMLOOPS.

The *B. C. Review* (London) thus comments on the recent promotion of the Kamloops Mines, Limited:

"As the result of a satisfactory report by their engineer, the Ashanti Lands, Limited, have decided to take up their option with the B. C. Exploration Syndicate, and the result was seen last week in the issue of the prospectus of the Kamloops Mines, Limited. The capital is moderate, being placed at £150,000. The company acquires seven claims in the Kamloops district, the best known of which is the Iron Mask and five claims in the Coast district of British Columbia, all of which are Crown-granted. The syndicate has actually spent in acquiring and developing these properties, £43,000. On the Iron Mask a shaft has been sunk to a depth of 500 feet, and 62,000 tons of ore are in sight, on which it is estimated a profit of £40,000 will be realized. It is proposed to place a concentrating plant on the property, capable of treating 50,000 tons per annum, from which a net profit of £27,560 per annum is estimated by the company's engineer, Mr. William Jones. The prospectus is a businesslike and straightforward document, there are no founders' shares, and no attempt to unduly water the capital; the vendors are selling their property