

coming to the front. It is to be hoped that prospectors and others will avoid the mistake made in some other places of holding their discoveries and properties at prohibitory prices. The man who finds the capital to develop a property must see that there is something in it for him, or he will not touch it.

As illustrative of the activity in prospecting in the Alnsworth mining division already prevalent, it may be noted that during the week ending May 12, 68 new locations were recorded in the office of the Mining Recorder at Kaslo. This, be it noted, is the condition prevailing while the snow still covers the higher mountains.

The Lillooet Gold Reefs Mining and Milling Company have started work on their property on Cayoont creek, and the directors have recently received some very fine specimens of the rock, which were sent down by Mr. Coulson, the president of the company. They are engaged in extensive development work, and the prospects are most encouraging.

It is easy to see the march of civilization in the north by the many new townsites being placed on the market. Already lot in Grand Forks, Wardner, Silvertown and Ferguson townsite have been purchased by local parties. There is no reason to doubt that many will make big money, even if only half the inducements made by those interested are as stated, while many, very many will drop their pile.

At an ore bin of 100 tons capacity is being erected on the Iron Mask mine, and a wagon road leading to it is in progress of construction. Work is progressing as usual on the rise to connect with shaft No. 1. About 20 feet yet remain to be broken before connection can be made. On completion of the rise stopping will begin and the output of the mine will, in a short time, be greatly increased.

In a few days, passengers leaving Vancouver one day will be able to reach Rossland and other Kootenay points the day following, as they now can do by going over the C. P. R. to Sumas, the Seattle and International to Snohomish, the Great Northern to Spokane and thence by the Red Mountain to Rossland. By the C. P. R. route there will be a saving effected over the present system of at least 24 hours, which the travelling community will duly appreciate.

The Magnet mineral claim in the Slocan country has been purchased by the Montezuma company. Adjoining this claim is the Bolander, whose pay streak eight inches wide of good ore, it is said, can be plainly traced across the company's new acquisition. Assays of this ore show from three to five hundred ounces of silver and sixty per cent. of lead. The development of the mine will be proceeded with immediately the snow has left the ground.

The Gold Bar company are sinking a winze on their claim six miles south of Rossland, near the boundary line. Work began on April 6th. Ten men are employed in three shifts of eight hours each. The winze is to be sunk to the fifty-foot level, whence a cross-cut will be driven to meet a cross ledge running to within fifty feet of the main lode. The superintendent, T. A. Helm, made an average sample of the ore in the shaft, which assayed \$19 in gold, silver and lead. It is probable that the company will put in their own concentrator during this summer.

Mike Flaherty has returned from a trip to the north fork of Salmon river. While he was at Craigtown, which is seven miles back from the railroad, the first lady made her appearance in camp. She was Mrs. Angus Beaton and the boys gave her a great reception. An evergreen arch was erected over the bridge across the river and she was presented with a big wooden key and the freedom of the city on her arrival. In the evening a banquet was given by Mr. Bringold in his new hotel, and Mr. Craig, the father of the town, delivered an address of welcome. — *Rossland Miner*.

Mr. J. A. Macfarlane, F. C. S., Superintendent of the Golden Cache mines, and Mr. J. A. Mackinnon came down from Lillooet on Sunday. Mr. Macfarlane reports that everything is proceeding satisfactorily at the mine. The road is in good shape, and the machinery for the mill can be taken in without difficulty. Good progress is being made on the foundations for the mill. Mr. Macfarlane has just ascertained that the main vein on the Golden Eagle dips down rather more than at first thought. They are now following it up, and as far as they have gone, the ore is as rich as ever.

The statement is made that at least five new concentrators will be built in the Slocan this summer, and two of them will be in Sandon. The Reco expect to have their concentrator in operation some time in September. The Reed and Robinson will build a short distance below Sankon. The Galena Farm will build at or near Silvertown. The Lucky Jim on Bear lake and the Montezuma on Kaslo creek will also put up mills. All these mills will build tramways from the mines to the mills. The Payne mine will build a tarmway from the mine to the warehouse on the the railroad track, but do not need a concentrator as the ore is clean mineral. These mills will allow the mines to run all the year round, and will be a great addition to the wealth of the whole district.

Mr. C. N. Davidson returned from Fairview camp on Sunday.

A company of mining brokers intend to open a branch office in Japan, where they already have disposed of a large block of stock.

## PERSISTENT ILL-LUCK.

Here is another story to prove that opals are unlucky.

A man threw up a coin in a tobacconist's to decide who should pay for cigars. He lost.

"No wonder," said his friend. "You're wearing an opal. You never will have any luck."

Four days later the wearer of the gem slipped in getting off a bus, and sprained an ankle.

This decided him. He gave the pin to a well-to-do Scottish friend of his, who was too hard-headed to be superstitious about anything.

Nevertheless, when a few days later he lost over £1,000 on wheat, he began to worry. He didn't care much for the pin anyway; and so one day, when a clerk in his office admired the "fire" in the stone, he presented it to him.

The young man overwhelmed his employer with thanks, who waited, with guilty knowledge, to see what would happen. He did not have to wait long. The very next week the employee was taken ill.

The Scotsman's conscience troubled him; so he wrote to his clerk, informing him about the opal pin and the superstition attaching to it, and the employee, after deliberation, decided that he would give the pin to his fiancée.

The opal did very rapid and effective work after it became the property of this young lady. On the second day after she began to wear it she ignited a curtain in attempting to light the gas. The curtain was destroyed, and the young lady burned both her hands in her attempt to extinguish the blaze.

Hearing of this, her lover felt called upon to apologize.

"Perhaps it was that opal I gave you," said he. "You know an opal is supposed to carry ill-luck with it. I didn't tell you, because I am not superstitious."

"I'll not wear the dreadful thing a day longer," she said; and she didn't. She gave it to her brother, who scoffed at the suggestion that a sparkling, glassy little stone could wield any influence, good or bad. Nevertheless, when he started for the city, and the train ran off the line and he was thrown out, he became converted.

Promptly he decided to sell it, and taking it to a jeweler, said:

"What will you give me for this opal?"

The jeweler looked at it but a moment before replying:

"That isn't an opal; that's a cat's-eye." — *London Daily Mail*.

The Slocan Pioneer is the latest addition to the weekly press of the mining districts. It is a presentable and well-written sheet, and would be a credit to any new town. The business manager is Mr. J. C. McEdden.