

provements. Further, the purchase of Mr. M. K. Rodgers' one-fifth interest was arranged for, so that the whole interest in the property will be owned by the Granby Company after the final payment shall be made next December, or earlier if deemed desirable.

From Mr. Jay P. Graves, vice-president and general manager, it was learned recently that the reports of six engineers were before the board of directors, when the matter of purchase of the property was being finally considered. The estimates of available ore, computed from results of development work done on the property and cores from diamond drill holes, varied from a minimum of 6,000,000 to a maximum of 12,000,000 tons.

In regard to the appropriation for development work and improvements, above mentioned, Mr. R. M. Sylvester, assistant to the general manager; Mr. O. B. Smith, Jr., superintendent of the company's mines, and Mr. H. J. C. McDonald, one of the company's mining engineers, have gone to Goose Bay to arrange for the energetic prosecution of the work to be done above ground, so that full advantage may be taken of the fine weather for surface operations; also to decide what new development shall be undertaken.

Mr. W. Yolen Williams, who has from the inception of the Granby Company's Boundary district mining enterprise been associated with Mr. Graves, is to at once make Vancouver B.C., his headquarters with the object of gathering exhaustive information relative to copper mining and smelting in the Coast district, so that, before determining upon the course to be adopted in connection with the reduction of the Hidden Creek mine ores, the relative advantages of having them smelted at one of the existing custom smelteries and of establishing its own smeltery on the Coast, may be fully before the management of the company.

The events of the last few months have, therefore, developed in a manner so satisfactory to the directors of the Granby Company as to have influenced them to committing the company to what will without doubt prove its permanent operations on the Coast of an important mining and smelting industry.

The Porcupine Fire.

Just as we are going to press news arrives that many Porcupine mining camps have been utterly destroyed by forest fires. Word also arrives of the deaths of Weiss and Moore, both well known in mining circles.

So far there is no information as to many Toronto men who were in Porcupine.

It is possible, though not probable, that fully five hundred lives have been lost. The chances are that not more than one hundred lives have been offered as sacrifices to the monumental stupidity that made the disaster possible. This moral stands out: We must absolutely spend money in safeguarding our forests before we can refer to them as assets.

We have dwelt upon commercial aspects designedly. But there is another view. Many brave men have lost their lives in Porcupine. The history of the Porcupine fire will never be written adequately. There is no doubt that an amazing amount of bravery was manifested

throughout the whole sad episode. Men like Billy Moore lost their lives willingly in attempting to save others. It is one of the traditions of mining camps that men must be brave. Porcupine, from all accounts, lived up to that tradition.

It is necessary for all of us to put our cheque-books at the disposal of the Porcupine sufferers. The next few weeks will witness the keenest suffering. If we can do anything to alleviate that suffering, we must do it now.

We have made arrangements with the Imperial Bank of Canada whereby any branch of that institution will receive and transmit donations to the relief fund. The formal name of the fund is the Canadian Mining Journal Fire Relief Fund. It is especially desired that all mining men become identified with the movement.

Remittances may be sent to any branch of the Imperial Bank, or to this office. A full list of subscribers will be published in an early number of the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL.

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The latest news at date of writing places the list of deaths at 87. This is by no means complete. Many of the survivors have suffered horribly. Whilst the loss of property has been severe, it is by no means as large as was at first believed. It is immensely distressing to know that the whole tragedy could have been prevented. Early precautions on the part of mine owners would have insured the immunity from fire of individual plants. An adequate system of fire-rangings would have limited the fire-swept zone.

Two facts are to be remembered. The same kind of holocaust may easily occur again. It is essential that advantage be taken of the experience of men who know the bush. Mining men from other countries rarely realize the urgent need of adopting preventive measures.

Upon the mining population itself and upon the Ontario Government rests the responsibility of acting at once and of continuing to act.

SILVERTON MINES, LIMITED.

The Silvertown Mines, Limited, owns the Hewitt-Lorna Doone group, situated three or four miles from Silvertown, Slocan Lake, B.C. Much development work has been done on this group during several years, under the direction of Mr. G. Stilwell. The following is an outline of what is now being done and what it is intended to do in the near future:

Mine.—Development work only is in progress. The ore taken out in the course of this work is hand-sorted and the high-grade sorted ore is shipped to the smeltery.

In earlier years several tunnels were driven from the western side of the mountain. Of late years all work has been done from the eastern side, on which a new camp was established to facilitate this development.

No. 4 tunnel has been connected with the work from the western side. Three orebodies have been opened