

THE HALL MINES.

The British Columbia Review of London, Eng., speaks as follows concerning the Hall Mines Company, Limited, as to which it shares the favorable opinion of the MINING CRITIC:

For many months past carping critics have been assailing the management of the Hall Mines, Limited. Conscious, no doubt, of their own strength, the directors have quietly backed up the local management and treated with contempt the censure of their self-appointed judges. But their hour of justification has come at last, for no more complete refutation of unfounded charges could have been possible than the fourth statement of accounts and balance-sheet for the year ending September 30th, as issued on Thursday morning to the shareholders. The strong financial position therein revealed may be briefly summarized as follows:

Gross income for the year	£30,357	8	0
Brought in from last account	1,930	6	4
Available	£32,287	14	4
Appropriated as follows:—			
7 per cent. on Preference	£1,750		
10 per cent. proposed on Ordinary	25,000		
Description of plant, machinery, etc.	5,488	15	8
Carry forward	47	18	8
	£32,287	14	4

The Hall Mines is better known in this country than the Le Roi, and it may be classed as the first British Columbia company formed in Europe to develop a Provincial mine. The justification of the Silver King has been a long time coming, but at last it has come, and that is the main point to bear in mind.

The Hall Mines dividend comes in the nick of time, and will do much to confirm the good impressions previously entertained regarding the mining resources of the Kootenay country. The Nelson property has not had it all its own way, a fact emphasized in the report before us, and it has had a fall in silver to contend with, but it has earned £50,000 odd in the past year; it has proceeded with the work of development vigorously, while the completion of the new blast furnace in July, and the refinery works two months earlier in the year, are both points of which we shall probably hear more at the meeting of the company, which is to be held on the 15th instant at Winchester House. If the prudent policy which has characterized the board in the past continues in the future, there is a very hopeful prospect for the shareholders of this company; and although it may be said that 10 per cent. upon a mining share standing at $1\frac{3}{4}$ does not give a very big return to the purchaser at the present price, it must be borne in mind that the company has a wonderful property in the Silver King of illimitable proportions, and that the capital its board has so wisely sunk in the erection of smelters should sufficiently justify the opinion of those who regard

the present market price as not an excessive valuation of the company's shares.

AT FAIRVIEW.

The following is a resume of some of the principal operations now in progress at this promising copper, gold and galena camp:

Greyhound claim: A 40-foot shaft has been sunk on this claim, showing a large body of galena. A Crown grant will be applied for in a few days.

Morning Star: Work has been commenced on the sinking of a third inclined shaft, which is now down 30 feet and is showing up well in galena, copper, free gold and iron.

The Smuggler: The width of the rich ledge which was struck on this claim some few days ago has not yet been determined. It is now 18 feet wide, showing free gold all through.

Oro Fino: Work on the Oro Fino is still progressing and the quartz is looking as well as ever. A road will be made next spring from the Pentiction road to the mine in order to get in the five-stamp mill.

Joe Dandy: A large force of men is working on the road from the mine to the Okanagan river, where a mill site is being graded.

Stemwinder: A double compartment shaft is being sunk on the Stemwinder. It is now down to a depth of 50 feet, and the ore is continually improving, showing every evidence of being a bonanza. A gang of men is grading a site for the mill about a mile distant, near the lake.

Copper King: The Copper King at Keremeos, just over the mountain from Fairview, has been bonded for twelve months. It is reported that the amount of the bond was \$50,000, a small cash payment having been made. The ore shows native copper.

The large new hotel at Fairview will be opened early in the year.

THE WHITEWATER.

The Slocan mine is shipping nearly two carloads of ore a day, and doing very well, as the recent payment of a \$30,000 dividend and simultaneous increase of the company's reserve fund sufficiently prove. The mine being tributary to Kaslo, and having a large pay-roll, is of great value to that city.

THE PROVIDENCE MINE.

Expert opinion holds that this mine, on Harrison lake, is a very promising property, with rich showings in gold and silver. But it needs better handling than in the past. There has apparently been about this mine too much "boom" and too little practical work conducted on a scientific basis.