

Active development has been proceeding on each property, a good ore body having been exposed 100 feet below the old, or main workings, which, by means of an upraise in ore, have been connected with the new or lower tunnel.

A cross-cut tunnel has been recently driven at the Sunshine to tap at a depth of some 120 feet the ore in the main tunnel. The vein and high-grade ore were intersected after driving about 50 feet, and the management has every reason to be satisfied with the outcome of this work.

All stores and supplies have been got in for a long and heavy winter's work, and by next summer it is expected enough high grade and concentrating ore will be in sight to justify the erection of an aerial tramway for a distance of some three miles to the foot of the hill, and the erection at such point of concentrating works. In any case, a compressor plant is to be installed in the spring.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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"GOLD MINES OF THE WORLD."

TO THE EDITOR:—This is the name of a book written by a Mr. Curle, and published by Waterlow & Sons of London. It is expensively got up and well printed. It deals with the world; one of its surprising features is that it does not deal with the mineral capacity of the heavenly bodies and the reduction facilities afforded by the infernal regions. It is certain that Mr. Curle must be familiar with those things because he knows everything about everything else; even if he were not, he has a method, which will be described later in his own language, for telling others all about things of which he is himself ignorant. Incidentally Mr. Curle deals with the gold mining industry of British Columbia. He paid the country a visit and saw ten mines. By many people this might not be considered a sufficient experience on which to talk authoritatively about the gold mines of the country. But such people do not possess the secret of Mr. Curle's success. He says himself: "To one who is continually visiting mines, and, who, like myself, takes the greatest interest in their study, from both a mining and financial point of view, experience creates a sort of intuition, so that it is often possible to arrive at a correct solution of the particular problem even upon slender data or after only a hurried inspection of the mine." It is this intuitive or clairvoyant method which Mr. Curle applies to his analysis of the gold mining industry of British Columbia and by which he is able to explain all about many things of which he is ignorant. He deals first with the general gold product of the country and tells us it will be five years before a definite estimate can be made. This is very interesting. It is surprising Mr. Curle's intuitive method could not give us such an estimate at once. "The immense majority of the reefs are admittedly low grade and usually of a highly refractory nature" is another of his statements. No word of proof given. It is Mr. Curle's *ipse dixit* arrived at by the intuitive above described. It might be safely said of any and all mining countries. He goes on to describe the local conditions of the industry. "The American," he says, "looks on a mine

purely as an excuse for share gambling." Presumably from his subsequent remarks he includes the Canadian in this stupendous, this amazing statement. Next he describes local methods of flotation. He takes an imaginary case of the worst wild-cat flotation to be conceived of and winds up as follows: "This is, unfortunately, not an overdrawn picture of the average locally floated British Columbia mining property." Of companies floated in England Mr. Curle points out that the results in almost every case have been hitherto unsatisfactory. We are afraid the inference is obvious that the mineral output of British Columbia has been so far developed by the very methods which he condemns because he does not understand them.

"On the head of all this," concludes Mrs. Curle in his introductory remarks, "a great deal of harm is done to the best interests of British Columbia by the local press, and incidentally by those financial papers in England which diffuse information derived from the same sources. Day by day an astonishing mass of crude irresponsible gossip, and a great quantity of lies appear under the guise of accurate mining intelligence." These are Mr. Curle's own words. They will be borne in mind and properly applied before we are finished with Mr. Curle. After this introduction, Mr. Curle goes on to deal in a detailed manner with the different gold mining districts. He begins with Rossland. "Rossland is a picturesque town of 8,000 or 10,000 people . . . Two railway lines wind up the mountain sides . . . bearing away piled-up carloads of quartz. . . . The town is very flourishing at present, but this state of things will not last for long." I do not know of any local or other authority that ever claimed more than 8,000 as an outside estimate of Rossland's population. The description of the Rossland ores as "quartz" is rankly misleading; while the statement that the town's present prosperity cannot endure is absurd. Rossland has 1,200 mines working underground. That number directly supports a population of 6,000 people. In addition, Rossland is the headquarters for prospecting over a very wide area, the headquarters for mining investment over a large area, and the centre of operations for many companies working mines elsewhere. The population is not excessive for the business done, and that is the main indication of a sound position.

Mr. Curle then goes on to teach the mining and smelting men of British Columbia their business. He quotes numbers of obsolete statistics which progress has entirely altered. If the British investor can afford to base his investments on facts that are two years old he has my sincere sympathy. He further animadverts on the unfair charges made by smelters, but as his statistics are based on the rates offered when copper was 12 cents a pound his deductions have as much to do with the present situation as the price of sheep in the Middle Ages has to do with the market for agricultural produce in the 19th century. He says: "It is an unfortunate thing that the only public smelter at the disposal of the Rossland mines has passed into the hands of the all-powerful C. P. R." The purchase of this smelter effected great and beneficial changes in the cost of reducing ore; while the Le Roi smelter and the Hall Mines smelter are both public smelters and are making active bids for the ores of Rossland, Mr. Curle repeats the story that the Le Roi company does not own the Northport smelter. Surely if the Le Roi company owns the stock of the foreign corporation, rendered necessary by the laws of Washington, which does own the smelter, that really