

Current Mining News.

Contributions from any part of British Columbia and the mining districts of a reliable nature will be published in these columns, and we request that mining men write us about the progress of the mines of their district. We desire to publish all mining news.

DRAGON CREEK.

The Lang company is here fitting up the necessary appliances for a busy season's hydraulicking, promising returns having lately been secured by individual placer miners working at points along the creek.

THE FERN.

The cyanide plant is now being put in at this Nelson mine. It will have a capacity of at least fifty tons a day. Meanwhile development work proceeds satisfactorily, and a car of concentrates, lately shipped to Tacoma, yielded \$60.78 a ton.

A WAR EAGLE ESTIMATE.

Mr. T. G. Blackstock, a principal owner of War Eagle stock, estimates that when the new plant arrives the War Eagle's output will equal that of the Le Roi, and run to between 1,200 and 1,400 tons a week. He calculates that the War Eagle ore will supply about three-fifths of the Trail smelter's ore requirements.

THE GOLDEN CACHE.

Mr. Wm. Mackinnon, the well-known hydraulic engineer, has been appointed consulting engineer to the company and charged with the superintendence of the construction of the dam, waterways, electric powerhouse building, and plant installation. Special care will be taken with the dam construction, as upon its success will depend the mine's supply of motive power.

THE RUTH MINES.

The Ruth Mines, Limited, one of the few English companies that have yet invested in Slovan mines under fairly reasonable conditions, has declared a dividend of three shillings a share and carried forward £7,000 out of profits to date of £21,000. There has recently been a further issue of 15,000 shares, which were eagerly sought by the company's stockholders.

NORTH COAST PROPERTIES.

The mines of the Phillips Arm and adjacent districts are showing more promisingly than ever. The Dorothy Morton and Blue Bells properties are already in a position for the putting up of good working and reduction plants, and owners of other claims in the district are confident of an early "boom" as a result of the generally good showing of the lodes. Mr. J. Cobeldick has started thirteen men to work on his property in Estero Basin, and they are making good headway, although considerably impeded by a big snowslide.

The owners of the Ajax group are doing more work on the properties, and have now exposed sixty-five feet on the lead, over thirty feet of which results from tunneling work. The ore will for the present be placed on the dump for shipment later in spring.

AROUND ROSSLAND.

The shaft in Sunset No. 2 has reached 210 feet. This shaft was started in the tunnel and is now 100 feet below it. A drift is being run eastward from the bottom of the shaft in the hope of encountering a body of ore thought to be not far away, as the indications are strong.

The Evening Star is now among the working mines of Rossland. Mr. Roy Clark, who is in charge of the property, has a force of men on the upper tunnel. He says they are in ore and making a good showing. There has been a great deal of work done on this property from time to time, but it has proved almost useless, so it is now proposed to go at it in a more systematic manner.

Mr. Otto Johnson reports that he has sold the Sadie claim on Sheep creek to a British syndicate for \$20,000. Work on the property is to commence within two weeks, and a force of at least six men must be employed. The sum of \$5,000 is to be paid on May 2nd, and the remainder within a year. The Sadie was one of the first locations made on Sheep creek, having been recorded nearly three years since.

THE EAST KOOTENAY PLACERS.

It is now certain that there will this season be much new work done on the gold gravels of Wild Horse creek, Palmer's bar, Tracy creek, Bull river and other auriferous streams of East Kootenay. These were roughly surface exploited by placer miners "in the sixties," but experts are assured that with the use of modern hydraulic machinery and other appliances far more gold is capable of being got out during a number of years to come, than was ever extracted by the rough and ready shovel, pan and flume methods of the placer worker of well nigh forty years ago. Capitalists are now taking up leases of the more likely placer ground of East Kootenay, which may yet compete more or less successfully with old Cariboo in this branch of gold mining. A great impetus is afforded this work in East Kootenay by the incoming of the Crows' Nest railroad, which will soon have quite a number of connecting side lines in the best mine districts.

WHAT GRAND FORKS THINKS.

The people of Grand Forks declare that they have even now little faith in the prospect of the early building of the Boundary district portion of the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern Railway. The Grand Forks Miner thereabout observes that "railways are not built on jawbone." But if, as surmised, the C. P. R. is more or less behind the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern project, through the well-known contractors who own controlling interests in the undertaking, the line certainly will be built soon. Meanwhile the people of the Boundary country strongly favor the Kettle River Valley Railway enterprise of Mr. Corbin, although that line will be one with American connections. They have so long waited for a line connected with the Canadian system that small blame can be attached to the Boundary people in respect of their present attitude, which by the bye, Mr. Bostock, M. P., endorses.

BRIDGE RIVER.

There will be quite a rush of miners to Bridge river this season, and already Lillooet is becoming quite a busy mine village and supply point. Much further development work has lately been done on the Alpha Bell Company's properties, and the new owners of the Forty Thieves group have just sent up a large body of workers to their mines.