

# British Columbia Mining Critic.

*"I Am Nothing, if Not Critical."*—Shakespeare.

VOL. I. No. 8.

VANCOUVER, B. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1897.

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### THE SMELTER QUESTION OF ROSSLAND CAMP.

The Rossland Miner takes exceptions to an article that appeared in these columns a week or so ago on the much mooted smelter question of the Rossland camp. Certainly no broad-minded man who is at all conversant with the smelter business could take the least exceptions to what we said. We advocated that it would be wise to open up the mines so that they could output at least twice the amount that the present smelter at Trail could treat, before talking of other smelter plants. From the Miner's own statement the shipment of ore from Rossland from January 1st to May 29th were 24,350 tons, or less than 200 tons of ore per day shipped to smelters. The Miner, in concluding his article, says:

"The only reason that the plant at Trail has not had all the ore it can handle is that the capacity of the Columbia & Western railway is not equal to that of the smelter. The mines have been compelled time and again to suspend stoping and even to close down altogether owing to the inability of the two railroads to haul away their product. The Columbia & Western railway has been kept in operation at all times, but owing to its being a narrow gauge road with heavy grades and curves, with but three small engines in its equipment, and with a heavy passenger and freight traffic to take care of, it has never, under the most favorable circumstances, been able to handle more than 250 tons of ore per day on the average. The Red Mountain railway has been of little service in moving ore so far on account of blockades and washout in the spring and a lack of a bridge across the Columbia since the river rose."

The Miner, in its over zealousness has misstated the fact. We are informed by the parent company operating the whole British Columbia transactions that the Columbia & Western railroad can move 55 carloads, or a total of over 800 tons, per day, and further, the fact of the matter is that not more than 150 tons of ore was supplied to the smelter each day for May. The fact of excessive charges cannot be made accountable for this small tonnage, for in conversation with the largest holder in the Center Star

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