

A NEW EAST KOOTENAY FIND.

The Fort Steele Prospector states that good gold bearing quartz has been found at the head of St. Mary's Lake. The quartz carries gold, copper and silver and already many prospectors are on the spot.

A GOOD SIGN.

That undue, but to a large extent, paper capitalization is being reduced and properties also consolidated in and about Rossland, is, as the *Record* notes, of good omen. A case in point is the consolidation of the well-known Homestake, R. E. Lee and Gopher companies, which as separate organizations were capitalized nominally in \$4,000,000. As a combined undertaking, organized by Mr. D. M. Lonnald, the capitalization will be \$800,000, an amount sufficiently large but not apparently excessive.

ANOTHER NELSON PAPER.

The *MINING CRITIC* is in receipt of an excellently printed and interesting new Nelson weekly newspaper, the *Economist* it promises to deal succinctly with happenings in that flourishing mine centre and would seem to have the right men behind it. Nelson should be well provided with three papers, but whether their proprietors will be equally well provided is quite another thing. They have, however, enterprise that deserves, even if it should not command success. Mr. D. M. Carley, a well-known printer once on the *Victoria Colonist* staff, is the proprietor and publisher of the *Economist*, and being a man of large and varied experience may perhaps be trusted to make good use of the local opportunity.

GOOD NEWS FROM TEXADA ISLAND.

The Victorian Metallurgical Works under the management of Mr. W. J. Cowell, F.G.S., has just pressed a gold brick out of the results of treating rather over 14½ tons of gold bearing ore from the Francis claim of the Victoria-Texada Gold Mining Co. on Texada Island. The result showing over \$60 to the ton is naturally regarded with satisfaction by the shareholders. The ore treated weighed 29,132 pounds and the weight of the gold brick runs to 45 ounces, 17 grains and 19 dwt., having a total value of \$900.36. It seems that our Coast district is about to become a good gold producer after a considerable period of waiting. The Victoria-Texada Co. is, as the name implies, largely owned by Victoria men. The Victorian Metallurgical Works are now treating samples ores from the Alberni Consoli-

A NEW CENTRE.

Each, doubtless, to the satisfaction of the Hon. Col. Baker, our Minister of Mines, who there owns large property interests, the C.P.R. has selected Cranbrook in East Kootenay as the divisional point of the Crow's Nest railroad. This means mechanic's shops, a considerable working population, a townsite and town lot values—perhaps, also, ere Vancouver gets one, a smelter, since coal lands are adjacent. Fortunate Colonel, to realise after many years of weary waiting the truth of the French adage, "*Tout vient a point a qui sait attendre.*"

Golden and Fort Steele will now have a rival East Kootenay town, and no doubt in due course the third paper will arrive in East Kootenay and settle at Cranbrook to "meet a long felt want." But all jocularity apart, this setting aside of Cranbrook for settlement and work is but another proof of the dawning greatness of East Kootenay, which having fine farm lands as well as rich mines, has one great advantage over Western Kootenay, enabling an all-round development.

THAT SMELTER.

The *Province* doesn't overmuch believe in the big promises made by the Evans-Prescott-Rothschild-Symons smelter syndicate, as regards the early setting up of a very big plant on Burrard Inlet, sans a civic bonus. In fact, our contemporary brusquely remarks about it as follows:

"Mr. Harry Symons, Q.C., says he intends to go ahead with his Seymour Creek Smelter, and if 'Symons says up,' well then, up will go the price of Burrard Inlet spare town lots (and by Jove! there are lots to spare) and up will go the plant, (perhaps the whole concern, too) but 'Symons' has also been known to say 'down,' and when he does, the money of investors will go down to the bottom of the deep blue sea, and never come up again."

This is straight speaking, certainly but it may be said in excuse that there has been more talk and correspondence than definite action in the case of this syndicate which has had many months in which to mature a scheme yet not got beyond the stage of periodic changing of plans and promises.

At the present rate of progress a smelter will be located in the neighborhood of Burrard Inlet at some period of what the most eminent of British statesmen vaguely calls, "the dim and distant courses of the future."

THE SLOCAN STAR.

This and the town of Rossland, the one a silver-lead, the other a gold copper proposition, are to-day, as they have

concentrating mill, now running to its full daily capacity of 150 tons, is about to be enlarged with more jigs and vanners that will catch much grey copper and antimonial silver that now escapes into Carpenter Creek. The mine working force will also be increased from 110, the present number, to at least 135. The *New Denver Ledger* notes that actual work on the Slocan Star group only began late in 1891, in fact, only just before 1892, since when nearly 200,000 tons of ore and concentrates have been shipped, the greater bulk, of course, during the last eighteen months.

The Slocan Star has in all yielded a million ounces of silver and fifteen million pounds of lead, and paid in all \$350,000 in richly earned dividends, an amount which, to justify its overcapitalization, the Galena Mines concern, noted elsewhere, would have to yield in profit in the course of each period of about sixteen months in order even in part to save the credit of its manner of flotation. Yet it has taken this well-managed mine of the Slocan Star five years—with all its richness of ore to earn dividends in all of \$350,000, though the rate of dividend production has latterly, of course, greatly accelerated.

REMOVAL OF HISTORIC REMAINS.

[Communicated.]

VANCOUVER, B. O., July 20.

We consider it our duty to call the attention of the Government and of the public at large to the fact that the valuable historic remains which mark the previous history of our predecessors in occupation of this country are being excavated and carried out of the Province wholesale.

We are much obliged to scientists who make a study of the past, and we are prepared to allow them the same indulgence in other civilized countries, but demur at the remains of the ancient inhabitants being carted off to adorn the museums of other countries.

Archæology is a very enthralling pursuit, but it must be indulged in without further loss. It is true that the "unspeakable" Turk allowed England to remove from Athens the famous "Elgin marbles," but such a transaction could never be again carried out. The remains of the Indian tribes who inhabited British Columbia may not have the grace and beauty of works by Phidias and Praxiteles, but though poor things they "are all our own" and should remain with us, and not allowed to be carted away as things of no value.

The scientific excavators have already, it would appear, packed away cases of valuable antiquities found near Kamloops and are now despoiling the ancient burial grounds near Lytton. Let them