

THE EXCHANGE NEWS.

ISSUED DAILY AT FOUR-THIRTY O'CLOCK P. M.
 A Financial Newspaper for Investors, Operators, Business Men and Corporations.
457 St. Paul Street, - Montreal,
 SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:
 One Year, \$6.00. Six Months, \$3.00. Three Months, \$2.00
 Weekly Review Issue, issued every Friday,
 Subscription \$2.00 per year
 PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.
 Advertising Rates on application.

Editorial communications to be addressed to W. I. Fenwick, Exchange News Publishing Co., 457 St. Paul Street, Montreal. Telephone Main 2937.

If irregularities in the delivery of the paper are reported immediately by subscribers, the publishers will be better enabled to locate the trouble. Telephone Main 2937.

NEWS OF THE MINES.

OKANOGAN'S PROSPECTS.

(Re-land Miner, Nov. 12.)

Mr. Alf. S. Edgcombe, superintendent of the mine and mill of the Okanogan Free Gold Mines, limited, is in the city on a visit. He brought with him the gold bricks the product of the last month's run of the mill. They weigh 240 ounces and attracted much admiring attention yesterday in the window of Mr. J. W. Spring, the jeweler. Mr. Edgcombe was seen yesterday and in an interview said: "Everything is looking well in the mines of the company. We are sinking on the ledge which is 15 feet wide and it is the ore from this ledge that we are running through the mill. All that there is in the ledge from the wall to wall goes through the mill. There is no need for sorting it. We have reached a depth of 80 feet on this ledge and intend to follow it down. It is almost perpendicular. We have drifted 100 feet along this ledge and we are still drifting. There is now ore enough in sight to keep the mill in operation for a year. This 15 feet of ore will average \$10 to the ton clear across, but there are seams of from a foot to less in width scattered through it which assay as high as \$276.40 to the ton. The lower tunnel is in a distance of 186 feet and we expect it to strike the ledge at any time. For the present, however, we intend to follow the ledge down by way of a shaft and then to reach it by means of the lower tunnel. We are putting in a working tunnel to reach the ore on the 80-foot level and when this is ready, which will be in a very short time, it will reduce the cost of mining considerably.

"We have labored under many difficulties. We are about 100 miles from a steamboat landing on the American side and we are 50 miles from Penticton. The country is in a primitive condition. There was no lumber in the country for our mill and we had to take a sawmill in and saw the lumber for the mill structure and for the other buildings which we required. The machinery for the mill had to be hauled in over long distances and there has been no end of trouble in getting the mill started. Ever since I have been in charge we have been engaged in putting up machinery and afterwards in improving it to suit the ore on which it is working. People expect to get results quickly, but they do not understand the difficulties that we had to contend with. I have had but little time to devote to the mine, but now I am turning my attention in that direction and hope to have it in first-class shape before a great while.

"We had trouble about getting wood last month, owing to the dilatory and careless conduct of the timbermen on whom we relied for supply. The result was that the

mill was not operated full time as it should have been and the cleanup was smaller than it should have been. Now, however, a contract has been let for the delivery of 300 cords of wood, and it is coming to hand in good shape, so that there will be no further trouble from that cause. This wood is to be delivered during the next three months.

"The mill is working splendidly. We save 95 per cent of the assay value on the plates and in the concentrates. The tailings only assay from 50 to 80 cents per ton. The gold is saved on the plates and the tellurides in the concentrates.

"Considerable has been said about the ore being base and the claim has been set up by many that it could not be treated by the free milling process. The ore carries gold in pyrites of iron and tellurides. There is only a small portion of pyrites of iron. The stamps release the gold from the pyrites of iron and then when the pulp passes over the plates the gold is caught there. The tellurides are separated from the gangue on the tables and this completes the process. In Australia I worked ore similar to this and with this difference that it carried more pyrites of iron than this does. The presence of the pyrites of iron is why the ore was thought to be refractory. I can convince any mill man that this is so. No matter how deep the workings of the Okanogan are extended, the ore will never, in my opinion, be less amenable to working in a mill than it is at present; in other words, it is a free milling ore now and will continue to be the same at depth.

"When we get the mine in a little better shape, which I expect will be the case within the next few days, we will be able to considerably cheapen the cost of mining. In fact, mining and milling will cost not to exceed \$2.50 per ton. Further on there should be added 10 or 20 stamps to the present mill. Electric power generated by the water power, which the company owns, would also materially assist in cheapening the cost of operating the mill, as it would do away with the cost of fuel. I think when the property is further developed there will be ample ore to keep a 30-stamp mill grinding out dividends for the stockholders for many years to come. As it is, during the present month there will be no shortage of wood and the mill will be kept in operation night and day and I feel certain that the next clean-up will be equal in value to the last two. In brief, I consider that the company has a very bright future before it. We had five claims originally and on three of these are large surface showings. The others are covered more or less with glacial drift and I am reasonably certain that they have ledges, too. In addition to this I have taken up, on behalf of the company, several other claims which I consider will in time become a valuable asset. From what I have said it seems to me that the company is in a good condition and is destined to enjoy still greater prosperity than at present."

PARIS BELLE.

Prospecting several different ledges on this property has been going on the past week. The main east and west ledge, the one considered the most valuable by the owners, has been opened up by a surface cross-cut near the corner of Columbia avenue and Butte street. After more preliminary work has been done the sinking of a shaft will be commenced.

BIG FOUR CONSOLIDATED.

A strike of ore of a shipping grade was made yesterday in the No. 1 vein, on the line of the railway. Only a few shots were put in when a fine showing of ore was made. No. 2 tunnel is looking well. A contract has been let for the erection of a boarding house. Two shifts are at work, and the intention is to keep up operations all winter.

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