

sunk to 600 feet and the vein was nine feet wide, and at 800 feet the ore body held its own. There is no uncertainty about this. The owners know they have ore at these depths. Some mining men object to the diamond drill, but for determining where ore bodies are at a minimum expense the drill would seem to fill all the requirements.

Happenings at the Mines.

ALBERNI.

Frank McQuillan, superintendent of the Duke of York Mine, at Alberni, on his way to San Francisco, said: "The wealth of China Creek, on which the mines are located, has been known for years, but work never began there until last summer. There are now two hydraulic claims, each employing ten men, and there are numerous other locations which have gold, both quartz and placer. There are two companies operating the hydraulic mines, but the combined investments do not exceed \$30,000. What is really wanted is capital. Men have gone in there and taken up the claims and are simply waiting for the money. They are willing to give capital the lion's share for an inducement, and to allow the investor to control. We have a lease of land from the Government and have prospected it thoroughly with shafts and otherwise. The placers will average 40 cents a cubic yard, and the quartz runs from \$20 to \$500 per ton. No difficulty is experienced, whatever, in getting it out. The Government is making roads. We now have a good trail the full length of the creek—fourteen miles. A wagon road runs up for a distance of seven miles. The country is not rough, nor in any sense disagreeable, and the work can continue unabated the year round so far as weather would interfere. In August or September the supply of water might give out, but at other times there is any amount of the finest water supply in the world. The men are now engaged in building the flumes, and these will not be required for a greater length than one and one-half miles. The mines of Alberni are so near home that people do not realize their richness. They have the idea that they must go somewhere at a distance, but to go into the Yukon mines work cannot be done for more than ninety days of the year, and then the expense of going and coming must be considered. We pay good workmen \$2 a day and board and all are busy. In my opinion we will have a boom in the spring." Alberni is in the centre of Vancouver Island, and the nearest point of any size is Nanaimo. Alberni is fifty-four miles from Victoria and seven miles from the boat landing, the latter being the distance which Mr. McQuillan refers to as being covered by a good wagon road.

CARIBOO.

It is reported that the Cariboo Gold Fields Company's pipe will go forward yet this season.

Along with operations that will next year be carried on by the Cariboo Gold Fields, Slough Creek, Lightning Creek and other smaller operations, Barkerville will be a veritable hive of industry.

A cyanide plant is to be erected at Barkerville to treat the ores of the Black Jack Mine. It will be under the supervision of W. Pellet-Harvey, the agent at Vancouver of the Cassels Gold Extracting Company, of Glasgow.

A nugget, weighing over half a pound, came down by express from Stanley this week. It is worth over \$160 and is a very handsome specimen. It was found in Lightning Creek the past season.

Work on the Montreal Company's mines, on Quesnelle River, is still being pushed, and the immense amount of gravel in sight now much more than justifies the placing of a plant on the property. Work is being done to determine how largely and extensively this ground shall be opened up. In other words it is the size of the plant and plans to be determined and not the richness of the ground. This is already known.

Among the many other great propositions that will be pushed next season is work on Antler Creek, and the starting of a tunnel to eventually drain the Williams Creek Meadows and the well known Kurtz and Lafe ground. This property has been placed by Mr. D. Oppenheimer, of Vancouver, with an English syndicate, and a private bill will be asked for this winter conferring some privileges on the company.

The best mining men who have visited the Cariboo country this season, agree on one point at least, and that is that mining in Cariboo has just begun, but that hereafter combination of capital is what is required, and from the present indications it is fast going that way seeking investment. When companies take hold of properties that have the merit that all well informed mining men believe Lightning Creek to possess, we have no fear of the result.

Under date of December 20th, W. T. Sargent, secretary of the Slough Creek Mining Company, writes: "The weather has been against us, and, as a consequence, we have not been able to make another start on the extension of the tunnel over to the Nelson Creek bench, but it will be started as soon as possible. The men are waiting until the surface water has run off so they can begin. We will then push it as fast as possible."

The fact of work began commenced early next season in the way of a bedrock tunnel on Lightning Creek is very welcome news. An English syndicate has been interested in the proposal to run a bedrock tunnel, and ample funds provided for the work. Ten leases taken out this season by Messrs. Adams, Boyd, Peebles, McLeese, Reid, Fraser, Tingley, Harvey, Mackay, and Reynolds, will be shortly transferred to the company, and some special legislation asked for in the way of consolidating this group of claims, embracing as they do, five miles of ground. Surveys and preliminary work will be begun early in the spring and the work pushed earnestly.

F. H. Lahtz, foreman of the Montreal claims on Quesnelle River, near Beaver, was in town on his way to Alberni. Mr. Lahtz reports work on the Montreal Company's ground as going ahead in good shape. The cross drift is in to rim rock, 1,700 feet in the upper benches, and good gravel was found all the way. Shafts have been sunk at various places in the course of the drift. Some very rich ground has been found, and the company on the whole are well satisfied. It is expected that a large force of men will be put on early in the spring, and work in earnest commenced in the way of building dam, ditch, etc. The dam will be either made of cement or of logs and gravel. It is in good ground and can be made solid beyond a doubt. It will require to be about 50 feet in height and the ditch line will be about fourteen miles long. An immense ditch will have to be constructed to supply water enough, as the company will open up at least two or three pits and calculate on running half a dozen monitors. A road will be built from above Frank Guy's, at Beaver Lake. The cost of opening up this gigantic property will be not less than a quarter of a million dollars, but, whenever opened up, will be a dividend payer longer than the present owners.