LIFE IN TRANSVAAL

Realistic Description of Events Leading up to Present Conditions.

THE RAID AND ITS SEQUEL

There Were Two Traitors on the Reform Committee and the Leaders Showed the White Feather—England's Duty to South Africa.

It's a far cry from British Columbia to South Africa, and he who attempts to portray the history of that portion of the great dark continent—the Transvaal—must needs dip his pen in varied inks. Truth and fiction have been so strangely blended, and played such a prominent part in its recent development that the time has arrived when those possessing a practical knowledge of the country should give to the world their experience of life as it exists in Johannesburg at the present time.

Mr. Chamberlain, on behalf of the British government, has, in recent utterances, given evidence that at length he is realizing the true facts of the situation, and that in the near future he is determined to free his fellow countrymen from their present political serfdom. That he has right, justice and reason for his contemplated action is patent to any one who has given the subject a thought.

Religion is frequently used as a cloak and shield. In no part of the world is hypocrisy more manifest than among the Boers. Ignorant and superstitious they combine natural cunning, deceit and immorality, posing the while as pious and earnest Christians. Foremost amongst them for "gospel grinding" vaporings stands that prince of liars, their president—Stephanus Paulus Johannus Kruger, better known as Oom Paul.

The Discovery of Gold.

Pausing on the threshold of Transvaal history to compare the condition of the country 11 years ago with what it is today, one wonders how any government could be so blind to its own interests as to pursue the policy the Transvaal adopted. A chivalrous foe, the British, through Mr. Gladstone had two years previously decided that the Boer war was a mistake, had abandoned further hostilities, and left the country to them, contenting themselves with a suzerainty over it.

After a couple of years at government experimenting, the Boers were again considering the advisability of giving the country over to Britain. Luck, however, changed their plans. A prospector, named Wemmer accidentally struck a reef of great richness. He went to Natal with samples, had them assayed, and succeeded in forming a company. Shortly afterwards Colonel Ferriera, the notorious claim jumper, pegged out adjoining claims and formed the Ferriera Gold Mining company. From that period dates the prosperity of the Transvaal. Invitations were sent throughout the world for prospectors and capitalists to come and inspect the new El Dorado. The response was hearty, for money flowed in and thousands of British subjects cast in their lot.

Boer Misgovernment.

Then began the Boer treachery. It was evident that very soon British brains, energy and enterprise would prove too much for the unprogressive Boers, and so urged by Hollander and German influence, they revised their constitution and laws. Thus it is at the present day that a British subject cannot secure the franchise until he has been resident in the country for 15 years. Nor are children born of British parents recognized as citizens. They must be 18 years of age previous to registering, and then undergo 14 years taxpaying before voting for the second Volksraad (parliament) and are never entitled to vote for president. Moreover, they are excluded from municipal government. There is a sanitary board at Johannesburg, but it possesses merely nominal power. Everything has to be referred to the capital, Pretoria, and more often than not its suggestions are ridiculed. For instance, only the other week, a vote of £3,000 for a house to house postal delivery for a city of over 100,000 inhabitants was negatived as a waste of money, and that too by a government whose revenue is almost solely derived from Witwatersrand.

No educational facilities are provided for Uitlander children, and if they are sent to state-aided schools they are instructed in Dutch, English being recognized as a foreign language. They are thus practically unfitted for a commercial or professional career. So acutely did the British subjects recognize this restriction that three years ago, after numerous appeals, they banded together and established a school of their own.

How the Miners Are Robbed.

Were proof needed of the corruption of the Transvaal government, it could be found in the word monoply. To understand the full import of the word, one has only to mention that dynamite, distillery, railway, water and numerous other necessaries are granted as concessions to private individuals and companies. A railway from Cape Colony to Johannesburg was long the dream of a few go-ahead merchants. This dream of the few became in time the hope of the many, but it rested with the Transvaal to give permission to carry out the scheme. After several refusals they at last consented, but in a manner opposed to public interests, by granting a monopoly to a Dutch syndicate resident in Holland. The result was that the charges were most excessive both on passenger and freight traffic; in fact so bad that several importers found it cheaper to off-load at the Vaal River—the Transvaal border—and bring in their goods by ox wagon.

This led to a complication. The Boers deciding not to be outdone, closed the drifts (cart roads) for traffic. However, the British lion became angry and sent an ultimatum, with the result that they were forthwith reopened, and have since so remained. Viewed from a mining standpoint, railway rates are most oppressive. Coal and machinery transport have long been causes of complaint, and today they are no nearer solution than four years ago. Excessive tariff and delay in forwarding goods are the chief grievances.

The Dynamite Monoply.

It being impossible to carry on the mining industry without dynamite the concession for this monopoly was forthwith granted to a German, named Ed Lippert. So dearly has this bloodsucker the interest of the country at heart, that what formerly cost to import $12 per case is now sold by him for $21, hence he yearly realizes a princely income. For this privilege of robbery, he pays the government a royalty of 5 per cent.

There is but one distillery in the Transvaal—enough of the kind. It is owned by pet friends of Oom Paul's—Messrs. Lewis and Marks. The poison turned out by them does not recommend itself to a connoisseur.

Barnato's Little Cinch.

One of the great drawbacks to Johannesburg is the lack of water. This was partly overcome by the waterworks company erecting reservoirs and pumping stations at convenient points outside of the town, but so rapidly did the population increase that the facilities were quite inadequate to cope with the demand, and only last year water was sold at 25 cents per bucketful. Recently, however, they have sunk a number of artesian wells, and they hope this year to overcome the difficulty. Like the other monopolists, the waterworks company is not philanthronical, and whether one gets it or not the tax of $5 per month is levied with due precision. Foremost among the shareholders of this scheme is Barnie Barnato, and perhaps to this cause may be traced Barnie's absence from the reform committee list.

Origin of the Reform Committee.

Innumerable appeals and petitions had been signed and presented to the volksraad to abolish concessions, take over the railway themselves, and give the taxpayers a little consideration and representation. These were, however, ignored, and one member considerately explained that if Johannesburg wanted anything the inhabitants had best come and fight for it, while old Oom Paul chimed in that they were composed of rogues and vagabonds. Considering that he has only been three times in the town and that for a few hours his opinion is not of much weight.

With such "hospitable" treatment it was small wonder that ultimately patience became exhausted, and a group of capitalists decided to engineer a revolution. They met privately, constituted a reform committee and made arrangements to smuggle arms, ammunition, etc., into town. As the scheme matured, so did the number of members increase, and amongst the new associates was Cecil Rhodes. His presence added stimulus to the movement and confidence in its success, because through his influence the cooperation of Dr. Jameson was secured. Matters, to all appearance, seemed to progress favorably, but, alas! "The best laid plans of mice and men gang aft agley!"

Traitors In the Camp.

There were two traitors in the camp, who, while apparently sympathizing with the movement, gave the government minutes of the meetings held. It is generally believed in Johannesburg that one of them, an American citizen, has since been in British Columbia. The other was a colonial, who had been previously in league with the Boers. The object in betraying their comrades was to curry favor with the government, and so secure future privileges.

About that time Oom Paul and his retinue toured the country, delivering speeches, in course of which he said that when the tortoise Johannesburg put out its head the burghers were to be ready to strike. From this it is apparent that the government was fully cognizant of the state of affairs and was on the alert.

Dr. Jim's Raid.

On New Year's Eve, 1895, news reached Johannesburg that Dr. Jameson—or as he is popularly known in Africa, the Doctor—with a force of 460 men had crossed the border from Pitsani and was marching on Johannesburg. Immediately the town was in a state of turmoil and confusion. The regular Boer police were withdrawn and volunteers installed. Shop and office windows were barricaded, and martial law practically proclaimed. Women and children were hurried away to Natal and the Colony for protection. To an onlooker it was amusing to see the number of men who showed the white feather. Scrambling, fighting and shouting to secure a seat in a cattle truck, they indicated that their skins were not to be intentionally targets. However, their absence was better appreciated than their presence.

Corps of all nationalities and grades of society were at once formed, and those of any military experience were in demand. American, Scotch, English, Irish, Australian and Colonial volunteers enrolled and were drilled. Arms and ammunition were served to the majority of the corps, and it seemed that at length the Uitlanders meant business. Positions of vantage were secured around town and forts erected and provisioned. Laagers were established in town and women and children provided for. Boers and policemen located themselves in jail and converted it into a stronghold.

Why Jameson Surrendered.

Meanwhile the Doctor and his band were fighting against tremendous odds at Doornkop. Tired and worn out with riding beneath a glaring sun, having no rest or food for two days, they were holding their own against the Boers when a dispatch rider arrived with a letter to Dr. Jameson from the high commissioner at Cape Town, informing him that he was outlawed and that in reality he was fighting against the British government. It seems that never once in their plan of campaign was the convention considered, in which Britain provides that the Boers shall be free from external interference. Immediately the white flag was hoisted, and the whole outfit taken prisoners. It is not accurately known how many were killed on either side, but it is estimated the numbers were about even. Jameson and his officers have since paid the penalty for their error, and the most charitable view to take of the filibustering expedition is to call it a mistake.

The News in Johannesburg.

When intelligence reached town that Jameson and his troopers were prisoners, excitement became intense and the crowds raging mad and threatening. They denounced their leaders and several of the reform committee endeavored to pacify them, but with scant success. At one time it looked as if the Consolidated Goldfields building, the headquarters of the movement, was to be broken into and wrecked. Ultimately they were pacified and comparative peace reigned. The high commissioner arrived at Pretoria as arbitrator and the British agent came to Johannesburg to attempt to pacify the inhabitants. In the course of his remarks he stated that if they would lay down their arms their grievances would be speedily redressed and the release of Jameson and his followers would take place. How far his words were true was evident from the sequel. Following the restoration of order the members of the reform committee were forthwith arrested and after a long delay were sentenced to fines, imprisonment, and in four cases to death. The fines, amounting to nearly $900,000, were what the government angled for, and shortly after the trial they were, with two exceptions, released. These two, Messrs. Sampson and Davies, refused to humble themselves before the smug-faced president's footstool, and so they are kept languishing in a filthy, unwholesome cell at Pretoria. Jameson and his officers were sent to England and there sentenced for their share in the exploit.

Movement Lacked a Leader.

With money, brains and men behind the damp-squib revolution, one wonders how at the crucial moment courage deserted the leaders, and why they did not send at all hazards, a battalion out to meet Jameson. The popular belief at Johannesburg is that fear seized them, and that had there been one man to lead the guard, success and glory would have crowned his efforts, instead of the dismal failure that characterized the movement. Colonel Rhodes, the figurehead, may be in the field a gallant officer, but at organization he proved in this instance most incapable.

Present Policy of the Boers.

Elated with success, the Boers are now more aggressive than before, and the life of a British subject there at present is not the happiest. Before crossing the border they have to secure a passport; show $150, and on arrival in Johannesburg have to register themselves and secure a license which every ignorant policeman has the right to demand.

Gags have been applied to the press and two leading newspapers, the Critic and the Star, have been suppressed. They are both at present suing the government for loss of property, but they have scant hopes of success as the judges are subservient to the volksraad, and even were they to decide in the former's favor the government has the right to revoke the decision and it is not at all likely that they will go against themselves.

The mercantile and general communities are unsettled, and few businesses are doing more than paying expenses. Many fortunes have been lost within the past 18 months, and the town, compared with two years ago, is dead. Real estate has depreciated in value, and one wonders how long the British government will delay striking for the freedom of her subjects.

Britain's Duty Plain.

Talk is cheap, and actions speak louder than words. If, after all, Britain should not adopt a coercive attitude it is difficult to prophesy what the future will bring forth. One thing is certain—Boer tyranny shall not be borne indefinitely, and a civil war will probably ensue. What that means to Britain is evident. Her subjects shall have, ere then, lost confidence in the dear home land and it is quite probable a huge confederate republic will be established from Capetown to Zambesi. That such may be avoided is the earnest hope of those who retain a particle of patriotic feeling.

The fighting capabilities of the Boers are exaggerated. Guerilla warfare is the style adopted and the opposing force should adopt similar tactics. Colonial volunteers—there are thousands ready, with experience in Kaffir wars—should be recruited, and the sons of the soil taught that the glory of England is not as they suppose, departed.

Future of Mining.

As a gold-bearing country the Witwatersrand is undoubtedly the best proved and known, but until the British flag reigns supreme, or a republic on the true principles of republicanism, liberty, equality and justice, is established, the rosiest days of South Africa are over. That gold and minerals exist in abundance is beyond question, but with its lack of facilities for development, it requires all the nourishment and consideration any government can bestow to bring the industry to a paying basis. Naturally a pastoral community, the Boers possess neither the inclination or ability to foster or encourage enterprise, and with such drawbacks as indicated it is small wonder that comparatively few of the mines pay, and that British investors are withdrawing their capital and looking for fresh fields. War clouds, excessive taxation and poor dividends, do not inspire security or confidence.

No country in the world possesses such natural advantages for gold or silver mining as British Columbia. It has water and timber in abundance, and it will rest with company promoters whether or not they propose wrecking their future prospects at the outset by foisting wildcats on the long-suffering, but well-nigh exhausted British public, or protecting their country and their own interests by developing and putting on the market properties which will stand investigation, establish confidence and make it what with fair play it is destined to become—the first mining centre of the world.

G. W. H.

MINISTER TO CHINA.

Reported In Spokane That Henry L. Wilson Will Get the Job.

SPOKANE Wash., April 26.—[Special.]—Private advices received in this city are to the effect that among a batch of appointments to be sent to the senate by the president tomorrow for confirmation, will be that of Henry L. Wilson of this city, a brother of Senator John L. Wilson, who, it is said, will receive the appointment of minister to China.

It has been an open secret for some time past that Henry Wilson was slated for the ministership to one of the South American republics. While east on his mission he was taken sick, and for several weeks his condition was so serious that his life was despaired of. His appointment to a foreign mission was to have been sent in for confirmation a week ago, but it is thought his illness had something to do with witholding it till his convalescence was assured. Now that he has improved sufficiently to undertake the journey to the post to be assigned him, it is said the appointment will be made at once.

The father of senator and Henry L. Wilson was, under a former administration, appointed minister to the Argentine Republic. While serving at his post he contracted a fever prevalent in that southern climate and died.

IN HONOR OF GRANT

Military and Naval Parades at His Entombment.

THE PRESIDENT THERE

Army, Navy, Militia and Civic Societies Turned Out In Force to Make the Event Memorable—The Blue and Gray Blended Once More.

NEW YORK, April 27.—Never but once in the history of the world, and never before in the history of the United States, has such a tribute been paid to the noble dead as today. The greatest of our citizens, our soldiers and our sailors, today stood side by side with men of fame from almost every nation of the earth, and paid without regard to race, or creed, or party prejudice, the last, long delayed honor to the dead, while the greatest throng that ever filled the city of New York, added its surging paen to the roar of belching guns and the tramp of marching soldiers, and there was no north and no south, the grey being blended with the blue.

Before the presidential party left the city to take part in the dedication ceremonies the gala decked streets were blocked with people who cheered as the great men drove by. When the tomb was reached a strange sight met the eyes. All around the oval, in the centre of which stood the gray monument to Grant, were what seemed to be black hillocks. This sombre background was formed by thousands of spectators, who filled the wooden stands built up from the ground on both sides of the tomb to the level of the steps leading to its massive doors. Where the loop around the oval met the river side grave, there were two solid sombre lines of humanity. On all four sides of the monument oval were great parterres of people, while facing these crowds were acres of eager sight seers who had not been officially provided for.

The solemn service of dedication seemed to throw a strong hush over the vast throng. The president stood bareheaded in the wind that was now beginning to rise. He was heard distinctly by the 5,000 people who stood directly in front of him.

The programme of exercises at the tomb was as follows: Hymn, "America"; prayer by Bishop J. P. Newman; hymn of thanks, "Old Netherland Folksong"; address by the president of the United States; song, "Star Spangled Bannner"; oration by Gen. Horace Porter; acceptance of monument by Mayor W. L. Strong; Hallelujah chorus from Handel's "Messiah"; Doxology by the Damrosch chorus and the public.

THE LAND PARADE.

National, State and Foreign Troops Reviewed by President McKinley.

NEW YORK, April 27.—With military promptitude and perfect discipline the land parade started from Twenty-fourth street and Madison avenue on the minute, at 10:30 o'clock. Dignifiedly proud, Major-General Grenville M. Dodge, followed by his staff, led the grandest of marches, the very horses keeping stride to the strains from the Governor Island band. The veteran Merritt, one of the world's famous leaders of cavalry, in command of the division of the Atlantic, led the first division, headed by natty West Pointers, "The finest marchers on earth," as a British general styled them, who called forth salvos of cheers.

Engineers, artillery, cavalry and infantry; in picturesque but orderly variety, clanged or tramped along, each brigade headed by a veteran. Not least among the honored troops were the tars from Uncle Sam's rehabilitated navy.

But not alone was honor given to the regular troops. It made American hearts glow to see the citizen soldiery—this army of the people, mobilized without friction and quartered and fed in this mighty metropolis without a shade of hardship or delay. Proudly they bore themselves and well. Naval militia, too, were there; the nucleus of a power which made the United States great in war on the waves of long ago.

As a relief from the constant blue came the independent companies, the gray-clad cadets, the insignia-covered benevolent and temperance orders. Each state, city and town that contributed to this quota had a right to feel elated over the showing, and the foreign contingent, foreign in name and uniform, but American in heart, was as noteworthy as any feature of this day of features.

An Unparalled Procession.

In many specific ways the parade was the most noteworthy that has ever trodden the streets of any city on earth. It would be impossible in any country other than the United States to duplicate a procession which would call up so many memories of war and peace, of days of gloom and sunshine, and all along the line in regimental colors gleamed old glory, while from thousands of throats of brass rang out the strains of music, martial and reminiscent, inspiring and harmonious.

Promptly at 12:40 the head of tne parade appeared in sight, a few blocks below the reviewing stand and was halted to allow the presidential party to finish its luncheon. It was one o'clock before it got into motion, when the president, escorted by Mayor Strong, went to the reviewing stand and the men-of-war began firing salutes. While a portion of the militia was passing beneath the triumphal arch, the crowd on the north side of the arch, which was under the control of the park police, broke through the line, and for a few minutes it looked as if there might be serious trouble. The gray coats were finally forced to call upon the municipal police to assist them in compelling unruly spectators to fall back within the line.

The Inevitable Accidents.

At 3:30 p. m. heavy clouds appeared over the Palisades, and the uneasy winds blew great clouds of dust into the eyes and nostrils of the national guard and the spectators on the stands on the left of the roadway. President McKinley and other distinguished gentlemen reviewing the parade had frequently to turn their backs to the soldiers to avoid being blinded by the dust.

A mounted park policeman's horse became unmanageable near the triumphal arch, at 3:30 p. m., threw its rider and attempted to run away and dashed into the third company of the Third regiment of the New York State National Guard, and Edward Rogers, a member of the company, was knocked down. Rogers was removed in an ambulance a few minutes later. Another of the militiamen named Snyder was run over directly in front of the reviewing stand by a horseman.

COVERED WITH BUNTING.

The Naval Parade Was An Equally Beautiful Spectacle.

NEW YORK, April 27.—"Two bells" in the morning—5 o'clock in land parlance—and on every foreign and home deck of the vessels anchored opposite Grant's tomb swarmed the tars. The signal, "Dress ship!" was the first manœuvre of the day, and the nimble tars blossomed out from every yard and top of the rigging in a trice. All the available flags and bunting aboard the warships seemed to have been hauled out of the lockers for the occasion. Strings of flags were run from the stern up to the masts and down again to the bow. The United States ensign flew at the stern of all our warships and all the foreign vessels. The American warships headed the line which was made, lead by the flagship New York, commanded by Captain Casey and with Rear Admiral Bruce aboard. Behind the New York and in the order named lay the Indiana, Columbia, Maine, Texas, Raleigh, Amphitrite and Terror.

Of the foreign warships H. M. S. Talbot was given the position of honor, her commander, Captain E. H. Gamble, being the senior officer. The other foreign warships in line were the French corvette Forlton, the Spanish cruisers Infanta Isabelle and Maria Teresa, and the Italian cruiser Degalia, Commander Righti, which arrived last night. Opposite the line of warships were the revenue marine and lighthouse tenders—five of the former and 11 of the latter. The despatch boat Dolphin lay above the warships decked profusely in bunting. She was to carry the president later when he reviewed the naval parade.

An interesting feature was the parade of the merchant marine, which was divided into four divisions, each division under command of a commodore. Each division was divided into squadrons and there were about 150 boats in line.

It was arranged that the rate of speed of the flotilla should be six miles an hour, but immediately after the start, shortly after two o'clock, it was seen that with the young flood tide it would be unusually difficult to maintain that rate of speed.

The parade was started in splendid order and went off smoothly, the flotilla turning the stakeboat, anchored half a mile above the head of the warships, in admirable style, and then stemmed the tide until all fell in quadruple columns for the return journey.

Salmo Consolidated Gold Mining and Development Co., Ltd.

OFFICERS.—V. P. WIESENTHAL, Mine Owner, Rossland, B. C., President and General Manager.
S. C. DAVIS, Electrician, Rossland, B. C., Vice President.
C. DEMPSTER, Member of the Rossland Stock Exchange, Secretary-Treasurer.

DIRECTORS.—J. J. McMULLEN, Manager Iron Horse Mine, Rossland; N. H. WRIGHT, Late Foreman Le Roi Mine, Rossland; H. B. CAMPBELL, Late of Colonna Gold Mining Co., Rossland; JAMES CHAMBERS, Contractor, Rossland; GEO. C. ROSE, Mining Operator, Midway, B. C.; C. O. LALONDE, Merchant, Rossland; GEORGE TALBOT, Le Roi Mine, Rossland; SETH McCLURE, Iron Horse Mine, Rossland; J. G. MURRAY, Le Roi Mine, Rossland; D. W. SHIEL, Merchant, Rossland; EDWARD TERZICK, Mine Owner, Rossland; A. Y. WILSON, Merchant, Rossland.

. . . PROSPECTUS . . .

The Salmo Consolidated Gold Mining & Development Company is not a company of promoters. The four valuable claims comprising its properties have been bought and paid for in stock of the company. A small block of the stock is offered for the purpose of developing them. This stock, called Treasury Stock, is on on exact par with the rest of the stock. From the product of its sales no money has to be paid out to promoters or directors. All of it will be expended, as it comes in, in actual development work, every share sold thus improving the property and raising the value of the stock.

A careful and conservative estimate of the value of the properties today, puts the price per share at 7½ cents. A limited number are placed upon the market at this price. By the time these are disposed of—probably before—the work now being done will have fully demonstrated the richness of the ore bodies already so well defined on the properties, and the price of the stock will be raised proportionately.

PROMOTER COMPANIES invariably seek high-sounding names for their directorate, to attract attention to their enterprises and detract careful consideration form their actual merits as substantial channels for investment. Names of leading men, who are never asked to put a dollar into the enterprise are often borrowed for such purposes. This, on the contrary is a company of practical mining men of well-known repute; each equally interested with the investor—not in the mere sale of the stock, but in the development of the properties acquired to their fullest dividend paying capacity.

Being practical men, they went to work in a practical manner, and first proved to themselves, that the properties afforded a good basis for their investment. Then work was begun in earnest, and at every foot of depth obtained their expectations were more than realized. When only six feet down the men were working in a solid body of galena ore, which had gradually widened from about four inches to two feet two inches, and at that depth was clear and free from any formation. Particulars of this, and of the assays made, will be found in the following description. Since then, as many men as can work in the shaft, have been sinking with all their might, night and day, and this rich ore is accumulating on the dump ready for shipment. Then and not till then, was it decided to seek the assistance of outside capital in the speedy and complete development of these properties of proven value, and the company does so with an easy confidence that its stock will soon be selling at substantial figures.

ORGANIZATION.—The Salmo Consolidated Gold Mining and Development Company, (Limited Liability,) was incorporated on the 23d day of February, 1897, under the laws of the Province of British Columbia.

CAPITALIZATION.—The capital of the company is one million five hundred thousand dollars ($1,500,000), divided into one million five hundred thousand (1,500,000) shares of a par value of one dollar ($1) each, fully paid and non-assessable; of which five hundred thousand (500,000) shares are set apart as Treasury or Development Stock to be used solely for the development of the property.

PROPERTIES.—The properties of the company consist of a group of four full claims known as the White Cloud, Blue Jack, Yellow Jack and Sitting Bull mineral claims, all contiguous to one another and situate on the north side of Sheep Creek, near the mouth of Bear Creek, about six and one half miles from Salmon Siding, on the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railroad.

No one who has followed the recent developments of the Salmon River District, can longer have any doubt that this region has an assured and permanent prosperity. The results from the opening of the various properties on the north fork of the salmon, Wild Horse Creek and surrounding localities, surpass the most sanguine expectation and give indisputable evidence of a mineral deposit which must eventually place the Salmon River Country at the head of the mining districts of the Kootenays.

FORMATION.—The general formation throughout the property is granite, which lies on lime contact on one side and slate on the other. The ledge proper is white quartz, carrying gold, silver, lead and silica.

The lead proper lies in walls composed of gangue very heavily mineralized with white and yellow iron and copper blende.

DEVELOPMENT.—Preliminary work was commenced at the summit of the hill on the White Cloud, a shaft being started. The development so far has shown what might be termed phenomenal improvement in the ore, both as to quantity and quality; the pay streak having widened from four inches to two feet and two inches of solid galena ore, at depth of six feet; this ore being free and clear from any formation.

ASSAYS.—Six samples taken indiscriminately from the dump, on being assayed, yielded values in silver and lead, averaging $35 per ton. This readily shows the marvelous improvement above mentioned; the ore at the top of the lead, which gave a total value of $13, having improved to $35, at a depth of six feet. Taken in conjunction with the fact that the pay streak is continually widening as depth is attained, this is conclusive evidence of an extremely rich body of ore being almost actually in sight.

WILL CONCENTRATE.—The opinion of a thoroughly reliable assayer being taken, that the ore will readily concentrate at a ratio of three to one; thus trebling the values obtained. There are at the present time about twenty tons of shipping ore on the company's dump, but it is not intended to begin shipping until the shaft is down to the 100-foot level, when crosscuts will be made on the lead to ascertain the width of the ore body at that depth, and levels run for stoping.

A blacksmith shop and very substantial cabins, and other necessary buildings, have already been erected at the base of operations, and a large and comprehensive supply of all required tools and implements for pushing the work rapidly, is on hand.

SHIPPING FACILITIES.—While there is already a good government trail from Salmon Siding to Hill's Camp, a distance of about four miles, and also a trail to the company's property from that point, a movement is now on foot, endorsed by influential property owners, applying to the government for an ore road from Salmon Siding to Sheep Creek, and from thence to the mines a private ore road will be constructed as soon as practicable, this company acting in conjunction with others in the undertaking.

OTHER POINTS.—It often happens that after purchases of Treasury stock have been made, stock of the same company, other than Treasury Stock, and in such cases called promoters' stock, is thrown upon the market, thereby depressing the price of such Treasury Stock to a low figure. This cannot possibly happen in the case of the Salmo stock. The investor is absolutely protected from any such contingency. All individual stock is strictly tied up until the company is on a dividend-paying basis.

No certificates even are issued for such stock, only interim receipts for it have been given, and these are untransferable. Upon this substantial guarantee to the purchaser the company bases its claim to full confidence.

The directors have decided to issue a small block of twenty-five thousand (25,000) shares, fully paid and non-assessable, at 7½ cents per share. This is actual value, and, with the protection afforded by the above, no stock should be sold below that figure. But the directors reserve the right to increase this price as the development proceeds, and have confidence, from present showings, that the Salmo group of four properties will, within a reasonable time, be on a par with the great silver and lead producers of the famous Slocan. The above stock will be sold in blocks of from 100 shares upward.

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GOVERNOR ROGERS IN DOUBT.

Does Not Want to Expend $30,000 for Commissioner of Arid Lands.

OLYMPIA, Wash., April 27.—[Special.]—Governor Rogers, accompanied by Commissioner of Public Lands Bridges and State Printer White, has gone east of the mountains to inspect the arid lands of the state. After this personal inspection the governor will decide whether he will appoint a commissioner of arid lands as provided in the bill passed last winter. The bill carries an appropriation of $30,000 and the governor is in doubt as to the wisdom of expending the money in this way at the present time.

TO DRAIN LEADVILLE MINES.

Owners Meet and Subscribe $10,000 —Output to Be Increased.

LEADVILLE, Colo., April 26.—A meeting of the managers of all the mining properties located within the city limits was held today for the purpose of taking action looking to the draining of the mines. During the strike last year the pumps were shut down, and a number of valuable silver and lead mines were drowned. Eben Smith, the largest individual operator in the district, reported a plan of drainage which was adopted. Ten thousand dollars were subscribed for the work, and $40,000 more will be added when pumping operations commence. The mines, when drained, will put 750 more men to work and increase the output of ore 500 tons per day.

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA GOLD.

A Testimonial to be Presented to the Queen by Kootenay Miners.

SPOKANE, Wash., April 26.—[Special.]—The War Eagle company is the prime mover in a project to present to Queen Victoria upon her approaching anniversary a testimonial of great value. Each gold producing mine of British Columbia is asked to contribute a nugget of the yellow metal to be sent to Toronto, and there the whole is to be melted together, and from it will be made a handsome and costly present to be forwarded to Queen Victoria. The Le Roi company today forwarded its contribution in the form of a gold brick of the value of about $65.

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