

although the total value of their washings cannot be ascertained for they are cute and secretive about their profits in any undertaking. Most of the money earned finds its way to China, and a very large proportion of it is not included in the Government returns.

Several dredges are now on the Fraser for the purpose of lifting the gold from the bottom of the river, but their success so far is problematical, although, judging from the success which has attended this method of mining in New Zealand and elsewhere, there should be no reason why it will not succeed on the Fraser. Before the close of the season we hope to be able to give a good account of the dredging returns.

It is not so long ago that word first came from Alberni of the discovery of gold in the neighborhood of Barclay Sound. Most people paid little attention to the report, it being regarded as a mere attempt to create an interest in the district for the purpose of speculation in real estate. A few men, however, were sufficiently impressed with the importance of the find to investigate it further, and the result is to-day that Alberni is one of the most promising gold fields in British Columbia.

It is particularly well situated for getting in machinery and supplies at small cost and as the latest reports from there show the whole district to be rich, there is every prospect of great activity there this fall. Already companies have been formed and work commenced on extensive hydraulic works, and some of the specimens of quartz recently brought in, show a large quantity of free gold.

The discovery of gold at Alberni has caused attention to be directed to the probability that the whole island of Vancouver is rich in mineral resources. Immense deposits of coal are known to exist in several parts in addition to the mines now being worked, and Indians have brought in reports showing the presence of precious metals in numerous localities as yet unexplored by the white man. Indeed, the interior of the island may be regarded to some extent as a "terra incognita," because no prospecting of any importance has yet been attempted there. It may be expected, however, that prospectors will extend their operations beyond the district of Alberni to all parts of the island, and before the end of another season some idea will be formed of its value as a gold field.

In East Kootenay valuable discoveries have been made chiefly in low grade ores, and the district, as soon as transportation facilities are secured, will be one of the most active in mining operations and satisfactory in results of any in British Columbia. What is needed, and what is keeping East Kootenay back is the lack of capital to work the mines. There are low grade mines in Alaska—where the ore is not nearly so valuable as that of East Kootenay—which are paying the companies operating them immense dividends. The mining of low grade ore in large lodes is more permanent in character than that of high grades, which are generally found in small lodes, and in this respect East Kootenay has an advantage over other districts.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is the natural outlet for East Kootenay, and the immense business awaiting the company in

the shipment of ore from the mines will no doubt induce the able men at its head to penetrate the country with branch lines. If there ever was a case where the Government should aid a railway in building branch lines it is that of East Kootenay, where millions of dollars are lying dormant awaiting development to add to the wealth of the Dominion. In another part of this issue some particulars are given, showing what Alaska is doing in low grade ores, and the question naturally arises why Canada should remain idle with even better opportunities, while that northern country is turning out to Uncle Sam millions of dollars.

In West Kootenay the development of the mines is going on rapidly, and the high grade ores found there are, in many cases, showing extraordinary results. Our enterprising neighbors in the United States have not been slow in taking advantage of the opportunity offered them, and thousands of tons of ore are being shipped each month to American smelters. As Americans in many instances own the mines in West Kootenay, the proceeds go into the pockets of Uncle Sam instead of the Dominion.

Canada should use every effort to develop the remaining wealth of this district which is enormous, and turn it to account for the good of the Dominion. It is therefore to be hoped that the attention of Canadian and English investors will be aroused, and that the mineral wealth of British Columbia will not be allowed to slip out of their hands.

For half a century or more the knowledge of British Columbia's richness in minerals has been no secret to the trappers and hunters of the Hudson's Bay Company. They brought in reports continually concerning it from all parts of the country, and this induced placer miners to enter and work the various streams. These men took out over fifty millions of dollars from the gravel banks, and then the discovery of gold and silver in the Kootenay region attracted attention. It was the signal for prospectors to rush in, and for a few capitalists to seize the opportunity, and the result so far is, that, while a number of enterprising Canadians have gone into the Cariboo and other districts, Uncle Sam has been very wide-awake in purchasing and working mines in West Kootenay.

One smelter is now at work in the district at Pilot Bay. It ought to be followed by others as quickly as possible. Smelters should also be erected in Vancouver and other points on the Canadian Pacific Railway, which no doubt will be done as the company secure the necessary connections with the mines. The recent visit of Vice-President Shaughnessy into the Kootenay will, we feel sure, do more to open up that country to Canada than anything that has occurred for some time. He has seen for himself the wealth of resources awaiting development, and he must have recognized the fact that a large traffic awaits the Canadian Pacific from that quarter. Vice-President Shaughnessy since his return has spoken in glowing terms of the Kootenay region. He is evidently satisfied that the reports from there have not been exaggerated, and that the future prospects have not been over-estimated.

We may expect then that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company will take immediate steps toward opening up a way into