

shaft house on the surface, and most of the surface workings will be discarded.

From 4,000 to 5,000 tons of ore have been and are being continuously shipped while these preparations and improvements have been in progress. The amount is exclusive of the 140 tons daily shipment from the old dump to the Trail smelter.

One has only to take the sound of the camp to note the marked progress that has been made on Red Mountain since my last report. The shipment of ore to date 105,790 tons is made up as follows: Le Roi, 85,270 tons; War Eagle, 10,600; Centre Star, 7,017; Iron Mask, 1,435; Le Roi No. 2 (Josie), 360; Evening Star, 351; I. X. L., 342; Monte Christo, 273; Iron Colt, 80; Grant, 42; Spitzee, 20. Le Roi shipments of ore from mine average 4,600 tons, and from dump to Trail smelter, 980 tons. War Eagle shaft has reached the 800-foot level. Drifting on the north vein at the seventh level continues. In the south vein the working is limited to find the new vein encountered in the other level.

Centre Star.—The management has estimated that shipments of ore will be commenced early next month. From 8,000 to 10,000 tons of ore have accumulated on the dump.

Josie.—The management has shipped three carloads of ore to the Northport smelter, and regular shipments will hereafter be made.

I. X. L.—Stoping is going on in the second level.

California.—The 200-foot level in the shaft has been reached, and the management is exploring in No. 2 tunnel.

Le Roi No. 3, Nickel, Etc.—The British America Corporation recently contracted with the Rand Drill Company for a Rand Corliss 40-drill up-to-date air compressor at a cost of \$25,000. The machine is adaptable to electricity as well as steam. It is to be manufactured at Sherbrook, Quebec. All the necessary accessories to this machine are also to be furnished.

Messrs. E. B. Kirby, of the War Eagle, and Bernard McDonald, of the Le Roi, publish a joint letter stating that they fail to see any profitable reasons for increasing the wage worker from \$2.50 a day to \$3, as asked for by the miners' union. The public will in all probability not hear any more upon the subject for some time to come.

Kootenay Land and Exploration Co.—This company recently received from the Provincial Government the deed to the tract of land comprising its townsite, thus enabling the company to give a complete title to all lots. Recently the government dredges greatly improved the facilities for landing freight at Peterborough, and have made a grant of public money in aid of the Peterborough school. According to the statement of Mr. F. W. Hendsdale, of Rossland, the company's timber limits near and around Peterborough comprise about ten million feet of serviceable timber.

SLOCAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The recent increase in the mineral tax from one to two per cent. on mines producing over two carloads of ore a month is not appreciated by the mine owners of this section or of any other for that matter, as indeed was to be anticipated from its very nature. There are, however, good points to be noticed, the tendency being to favour the small property and those struggling in the initial stage of develop-

ment at the expense of those better able to contribute to the treasury. Some definition will doubtless be required to determine exactly what a carload comprises, the term being somewhat elastic though usually applied to consignments of twenty tons of ore. In the case of narrow gauge railways, however, this is considerably more than a car will hold. Whatever arrangement is made on this point notwithstanding, the calculation being on a basis of minimum tonnage and not of value, advantage must rest with the higher grade districts, this being counteracted in some degree by the certainty that in poorer regions a mine capable of producing two cars a month will in all probability be able to ship a great many more than this number, whereas in the Slocan very many properties will be compelled to pay the tax on an output but little above that required to bring them within the operation of the Act. I remarked last month on the amount of enthusiasm displayed around Sandon, and I am equally pleased to be able to record now a further continuation of good times. Not only Sandon, but Whitewater and other places contiguous are sharing in the season of prosperity, the

GOOD TIMES general opinion expressed being
AT SANDON. that never before did the mines

look better or the outlook so encouraging as at present, despite the misfortunes of the earlier part of the year. Reports of extraordinary finds, by no means visionary, from the Payne and the Slocan Star—in the case of the latter the ore being better and of higher grade than any previously encountered—in conjunction with a great increase in output from the Whitewater and Idaho mines, coupled with the present and prospective operation of the Ivanhoe mine and concentrator, conspire to give an air of hopeful expectancy to the inhabitants of the mountain towns. The same stimulating influences are not unfortunately at work in the lake region, the depression arising from even a temporary cessation of activity at what is regarded as one of our main props so to speak, namely, the Wakefield mine, being hard to dispel. That operations will be resumed again before many weeks on a scale fully commensurate with the importance of the undertaking nobody appears to doubt, but in the meantime a feeling of dismay and unrest has been engendered which is difficult to allay. We are gratified to know that in the estimates of public expenditure for the ensuing year the claims of the Slocan have been pretty well recognized, and more particularly of interest to us at this juncture, to find that the pressing needs of Silver Mountain so often urged in this respect have not been entirely overlooked. Some three thousand dollars have been appropriated for the purpose of assisting in the building of a waggon road to the properties there situated and it is safe to assert that if all the roads which are constructed by the government gave equal promise of so speedily requiring the outlay, the public treasury would not lack for funds. Difficulties in connection with both the Marion and Hartney deals have been satisfactorily adjusted and everything now points to a continued operation and development of both properties.

The spasmodic occurrence of the ore bodies is one of the most interesting features of mining in the Slocan from a theoretical standpoint, being calculated at times to drive the best of mine managers insane; but when as frequently happens an unexpected discovery of high grade ore is made, the other extreme