

Current Mining News.

Contributions from any part of British Columbia and the mining districts of a reliable nature will be published in these columns, and we request that mining men write us about the progress of the mines of their district. We desire to publish all mining news.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT PURCHASE.

The British America Corporation has bought for \$285,000 another important Rossland mine, the Columbia and Kootenay.

THE ORO FINO.

The manager at Fairview of this mine, Mr. Fleming Robinson, reports that the ledge on No. 3 shaft is fully nine feet wide, and shows richly in galena and gold. Hence good results are confidently expected by him shortly.

PROMISING FOR NELSON.

It is now believed by prominent West Kootenay mining men that the gold and copper belt in which are the Forty-Nine and Hall creeks, Nelson, will shortly be found to be one of the richest areas in the Province. The district includes the Silver King, Fern, Northern Light group of the Bright Prospect Company, Referendum and Athabasca.

LE ROI MEETING.

The regular monthly meeting of the directors was held in Spokane on the 1st instant. The usual profitable working was reported, but it was decided, in order to provide further ore purchasing capital for the associated Northport smelter, to use for that purpose what would otherwise be distributed as the usual monthly dividend.

THE BRITISH AMERICA CORPORATION.

The Hon. C. H. Mackintosh, the resident director of the Corporation, has already found that Rossland and Trail Creek don't by any means include all the golden treasure houses of British Columbia. This is proved by the news that the corporation has now bought the Argenteuil claim on the North fork of Salmon river—a very promising district indeed.

AT KAMLOOPS.

The Pothook Bonanza claim is reported as sold to an English company in London. The mine shaft is now down nearly 50 feet, native copper showing well, so the manager states. Meanwhile the English company, which now owns the Copper-King Copper-Jack claims, will shortly begin work, and at the Iron Mask the face of solid ore is stated to be 2½ feet wide and showing remarkably well.

THE PAYNE ON SALE.

The Sandon Paystreak states that the famous Payne mine is now working with a staff reduced one-half in number, a circumstance which is believed to indicate that the Payne mine is about to be sold for a big sum to an English syndicate. There are doubtless many English inquiries as to the terms on which this mine—the greatest silver producer in the Slokan, and second to none in profitable productiveness in the whole gold and silver area of British Columbia—can be acquired. And it is likely enough the shrewd American owners will sell, if they get their price, which assuredly will not be low. Rumor suggests \$3,000,000 as an approximate price for the mine.

THE FERN.

Mr. J. A. Veatch, the superintendent, reports that work at the mine is progressing favorably, and large bodies of ore of good value are being uncovered. An electric light plant has been installed, and it is the intention to immediately put in a cyanide plant to treat the tailings of the stamp mill, which at present are being stored. It is expected that the cyanide plant will double the output of gold per ton. The ten stamps will not be put in until after the cyanide plant is installed. The next clean-up will be about the end of February, when, it is confidently hoped, that the present bright anticipations of the mine management will be further enhanced.

ROSSLAND'S ORE SHIPMENTS.

Rossland's ore shipments for the week ending February 5th are as follows: Le Roi mine, 1,000 tons; War Eagle mine, 135 tons; Centre Star mine, 75 tons; Iron Mask mine, 80 tons. Total, 1,290 tons. The shipments for the same period last year were 1,209 tons. The shipments since January 1st, 1897, amount to 78,836 tons.

The Le Roi still continues to be by far the largest shipper, but the War Eagle mine is considerably increasing its output. Evidently a period of greater activity is commencing at the latter mine, which is moreover about to be more fully tested when the 2,000-foot level is reached.

AN IMPORTANT SAVING.

Says the Rossland Record: "The item of lime flux at the Northport smelter is a saving of some \$200 a day over the Trail smelter, which will enable the Rossland ore to be treated at a much less cost than at Trail, or other points in this section. It only costs about 30 cents a ton to deliver lime rock to the Northport smelter, while it costs about \$5 a ton at Trail. This is a matter of great importance with the treatment of Trail creek ores."