DEER PARK CLAIMS

Good Showings Made on a Large Number of Them.

THE TRIP FROM ROSSLAND

On the Annual Excursion Last Sunday —Deer Park a Beautiful Site for a Townsite, with a Great Promise of Mineral Resources.

TRAIL, May 24.—[Special.]—The excursionists could hardly have chosed a prettier day than yesterday for their trip to Deer Park. The sky was clear, the air was balmy, and the sun obligingly refrained from getting too hot. This being the second excursion to Deer Park (for a similar picnic was held last year) the occasion is coming to be held a sort of established festival, and will probably be repeated every spring.

A number of Rosslanders came down on the special train that brought the Rossland Silver Cornet band, and enjoyed the trip up the river and the lake.

Magnificent Scenery.

The steamer Lytton, which had been chartered for the occasion, was just comfortably filled when, at 8:30 o'clock, she left her moorings and steamed away up the river. The trip up the Columbia offers a succession of magnificent scenery that can hardly be surpassed, and when the boat enters the Arrow lakes one is probably in the most beautiful stretch of still water in the world. The lakes vary in width from one to ten miles, while along their length vistas of placid water extend for 15 and 20 miles.

The whole picture is shut in by imposing pine-clad hills that rise straight up from the edges of the lakes. The highest summits are still capped with snow, but for the most part the mountains are clad in the verdure of spring, relieved only by the rough gray tones of the granite.

Beauties of Deer Park.

Deer Park was reached in time for lunch, and after a few hours spent in rambling over the surrounding hills the the party returned home in time to reach here by twilight.

Deer Park is located in the arm of Lower Arrow lake. The name is not misleading, for it is a natural park of rare beauty, and deer are still common thereabouts. The place is famous as the loveliest spot in the whole lakes. A townsite has been plotted and a flourishing little hamlet is growing on the spot.

Besides its ideal location as a townsite the place is beginning to attract much favorable attention as the heart of a mining district that may develop some very rich properties. So far but little work has been done, for it was only last spring that the country was first explored. The district was the traditional wilderness till January of '96, when Bob Hutchinson and George Henderson, the pioneers of the camp, first prospected the hills thereabouts and staked off their claim, the Red Bird, about two miles up Deer creek.

Two Hundred Claims Staked.

The two brought back such flattering reports that other prospectors followed them in rapidly and the country just around Deer Park has been somewhat explored. It is estimated that about 200 claims have been staked off in the surrounding country, but there are still large areas of mineral land on which not one has yet set foot.

Though the camp is in the Nelson mining district, it seems to be in the Slocan formation. The range fifteen miles back separates it from the Slocan proper, but the minerals of both districts are very similar. The main country rock around Deer Park seems to be a fine-grained granite, though there are large deposits of lime in which mineral occurs. There is a wash of lime rock over the surface which sometimes confuses prospectors at first, but after a little experience no such difficult is met with.

Ledges of Good Size.

The mineral exists in good sized ledges, varving from two or three feet to as high as 100 feet wide. Iron ore and quartz are both met with frequently. The former runs in copper, silver and gold in about the same proportions as in the Trail Creek ore, though in the opinion of some of the prospectors who are working thereabouts the rock is rather richer on the surface than is the case around Rossland and Trail. The quartz ledges have revealed some rich galena and also some promising free gold.

Asking a High Figure.

So far only a very little work has been done—in most cases only enough to do one, and possibly two years' assessment. The most extensive work on any claim is on the Wild Horse, where the development consists of a 150 foot tunnel, but the progress of the work has been kept secret, and nothing has leaked out regarding the showing made. That it is very good though may be surmised from the fact that a deal has been lately pending with Toronto people for the sale of the group at a figure understood to be $180,000. So far the deal has not been consummated.

Most of the work so far done has been on the claims along Deer and Cayuse creeks. On Deer creek is the Wild Horse group of four claims, already noticed. It has a big showing of two or three strong leads of arsenical ores. Big assays are said to have been secured, but in accordance with the policy of the owners nothing certain regarding figures can be obtained.

On the Boston Boy.

About three and a half miles back on the divide between Deer and Cayuse creeks lie the Boston Boy, the Comet and the Genoa. All three show strong ledges of iron cap. The work done consists of one or two assessments. The Boston Boy has an especially vigorous iron cap between lime and granite, and is classed as one of the best prospects in the camp. A company is being formed to take it over.

About four miles back on the same divide is the Prince of Wales, owned by William Cooney and Tom Macgilvray. The ledge is a six-foot body of quartz, impregnated with sulphides and arsenical iron. A 15-foot shaft is down and the showing is considered very good.

The Ella Group's Promise.

W. Parker, who owns the Ella group of seven claims, has driven an open crosscut to tap the lead on the Ella, and an average of six samples goes over $14 in gold. The same vein has also produced rock that assays five per cent copper. The group is on Deer creek, in the lime belt, and the vein already touched lies between lime and granite walls.

Robert Hutchinson, already referred to as the pioneer in the camp, is working the Blackfoot and the Beech Nut in Little Deer Park, six miles up the lake, with promising success.

Recent Galena Strike.

The Bluebird, owned by the Montana Gold Mining company, has attracted much favorable attention in the past few days because of the recent strike of galena. The claim is located about three miles back on Deer creek, near the falls. There is a 4½-foot vein of quartz distinctly traceable on the surface, on which two shafts have been sunk to a depth of a tew feet. In one the miners came into some fine galena when down about 14 feet. The galena so far has been rather pockety. An assay recently made in Spokane showed 165 ounces in silver and $9 in gold.

Jack Robinson's claim, the Rob Roy, which has already been mentioned in THE MINER, is also in galena, of the cube variety. The ledge is a five-foot body of quartz, in which are pockets of galena. The shaft is only down about six feet, and the showing is considered exceptionally good.

The Peterson brothers, of the Crown Point hotel of Trail, are working a group of claims about two miles back, between Deer and Cayuse creeks. It includes the Barefoot, the Bum, the R. P., and the Laura. The ledges are strong bodies of iron and quartz.

They also own the Black Wolf, four miles south of Deer Park. Adjoining the Black Wolf is the Grey Wolf, owned by two Frenchmen, who have driven a 150-foot tunnel on their claim. They are credited with refusing $10,000 cash for the property.

Free Gold on the Broker.

A strike of fine free gold was made last week on the Broker, about six miles back of Deer Park, on Green mountain. The country thereabouts has been very little explored, and the Broker, with its sister claims, the Gold Drop and the Myrtle, are almost the only claims in the vicinity.

They were staked off a fews days ago by Tom McArdle, Mike McGilvray, William Cooney and Dan Keith, who were attracted to the vicinity by some fine quartz bodies showing up on the surface. They started in on a lead of sugar quartz, between eight and 12 feet wide, and in an open cut on the surface encountered a streak of talc between four and five inches wide. They panned some of it out and found that it showed up very rich free gold.

A sample was brought to Trail and pounded out here today. A small piece weighing about two ounces produced about 10 cents worth of coarse gold. Assays are now being made and the results of the strike are awaited with keen interest.

Columbia Rising Slowly.

The rise of the river has been somewhat checked by the cool weather of the past two days. In the 48 hours ending at noon today the rise amounted to about 15 inches and the river lacked 8 feet and 11 inches of equalling its record of last year.

The Queen's birthday was celebrated quietly and without any particular demonstration. The smelter and most of the business houses closed during the day.

A LETTER FROM MR. CORBIN.

The following letter, delayed in transmission, was written by President Corbin, of the Spokane Falls & Northern railroad and allied roads, in reply to an article which appeared in THE MINER last week. While it may not have been intended for publication, we take the liberty of using it in that manner, since it states Mr. Corbin's position on the smelter question in very clear and unmistakable terms:

"It appears to be the impression of some of the people on the other side of the line that I am devoting my entire attention, and sitting up nights, in my efforts to get a smelter located at Northport.

"As a matter of fact, I have spent very little time in trying to induce the building of a smelter there, and have offered nothing to get it at that point, excepting a donation of land. I have said to the Le Roi people, as Col. Peyton will tell you, that it was not for me to advise them, or any other smelting people, where they should build their smelter, inasmuch as that was their especial business, and I assumed that they were better informed upon the subject than I was. This company is in the transportation business, and is seeking business, as does every other transportation line, where it can legitimately get it, which, as I take it, no one has any right to object to. If the C. P. R. were deprived of the business it gets from the United States, it would be in an exceedingly bad way, as I presume anybody knows who has taken the trouble to inform themselves. I am getting a little weary of being reminded from time to time of the obligations this company is under to the province and to the 'people of Canada.' We built the first road of any benefit to the country into South Kootenay, and for two winters it was the only line of communication that the country had with the outside world. We spent $1,200,000 building it and it has never been able to pay its interest or any part of it until the present time. To be sure we received a land grant in consideration of building this road, and practically everybody in South Kootenay at the time petitioned the government to make this bargain with us so that they might get the road. The patriotic individuals who are doing the most of the crying at the present time in regard to the aid we received from the government and the tremendous obligations we are under to the government therefor, had many of them never heard of the Kootenay country before our road was built, and none of them took chances on it to the extent of a dollar. On the whole I think the country is under as much obligation to the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway Company as the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway Company is to the country. We are quite willing to call honors easy, but as I said before, are getting tired of being constantly reminded that we are the debtor in this matter.

Yours very truly,

D. C. CORBIN, President.

C. O'BRIEN REDDIN, President. C. F. JACKSON, Secretary-Treasurer.

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WITH COLORS FLYING

New Steamer Kootenay Makes Her Maiden Trip.

BIGGER THAN THE NAKUSP

Interesting Facts About Trail's Public School—Troubles of the Hotel Arlington—Effect of Cool Weather on Columbia River.

TRAIL, May 25.—[Special.]—With her colors gaily flying and all the whistles in town tooting her a welcome, the new Kootenay steamed proudly into port this afternoon, and the latest addition to the Columbia river steamer service had completed her first through trip.

The new boat is built on beautiful lines, and in her fittings she is not surpassed by any boat in the inland waters. Her exterior coat of white is relieved by trimmings of yellow, and her interior is finished in white and natural wood. The general plan is very closely modelled after the Nakusp, but she is 10 feet longer and a foot narrower than the older boat. She is a speedy craft, and in her trial trip demonstrated that no established records are likely to last. The ladies' cabin is especially handsome in its fittings, which, besides heavy Brussels carpets and fine bevelled mirrors, includes some sumptuous leather covered furniture.

The boat is commanded by Capt. W. E. Nesbitt and R. W. Shiels is her purser. Peter Wilson is pilot and D. Stephens chief engineer. After this week the Nakusp will resume her run and there will be a daily steamer service between Trail and Arrowhead.

The new Kootenay recalls the old Kootenai, which was sunk in the fall of '95. The latter was a boat much like the Trail. Her hull was of bull pine, which will not stand the water and she was beached in the Arrowhead lake, after starting to sink.

Trail's Public School.

Trail's public school will close on Friday, June 18. The regular time for closing is June 22, but as that will come on Monday, permission was given to close the school on the previous Friday. The next session will begin on August 9.

No better evidence of the rapid growth of Trail can be found than is shown by the increase of the children attending school. Last year one teacher was employed, and it was little enough he had to do. The attendance ranged around eight and ten, with an enrollment of perhaps twelve. At times the interest flagged so that the school was maintained with difficulty.

This year a new school house is occupied, with two well lighted rooms, cloak rooms, closets and other suitable conveniences. Professor Dewar and Miss Bunting are the instructors, and it is plenty that they find to do. Month by month the attendance has been climbing upwards till some time ago the utmost capacity of the school was overcrowded, and children have since been compelled to remain away through lack of accommodation for them at school. The attendance remains fixed at 90, the minimum limit, and as soon as a child drops out his place is quickly filled. The total enrollment has grown to 120, and many more would attend if there were room available.

The last legislature made a liberal provision for the schools here, and next year there will be plenty of room for all the children in town. Two rooms will be added to the present school house, and as many additional teachers will be provided, so that the present capacity will be doubled. Parents with children need not hesitate to remove to Trail through fear of not being able to educate the children, for there will be ample provision next year.

Rich Ore From Wild Horse.

David Jelly is exhibiting some pretty ore from the Gleason on the Wild Horse, near Ymir. It assays $102 and runs 48 per cent in copper.

Arlington Hotel Troubles.

The troubles that have been brewed by the defunct Arlington hotel company are still attracting attention. The latest move is the attachment by H. L. Murton of some of the fixtures of the house to satisfy a claim of himself and other employees for wages due them by the company. It seems that by some oversight the mattresses, springs, pillows, pipes, stoves and clocks of the hotel were not included in the mortgage which the Bealey company foreclosed some time ago. Consequently they were open to attachment, and accordingly judgment was secured against them by Mr. Murton and some of his fellow employees under the old company. The fixtures will be sold at Auction May 27.

Much satisfaction is felt over the decrease in the rise of the river, caused by the cool weather of the past few days. In the 24 hours ending today the river only rose three inches and still lacks 8 feet, 9 inches of touching the damage line.

THE WAGONS TOOK FIRE

Freighters Camped on Kettle River Lose All Their Goods.

Two Stages Now Running to Grand Forks—Strike on the Humming Bird.

GRAND FORKS, May 22.—[Special.]—A peculiar accident occurred last night at Edwards' ferry, 12 miles below Grand Forks, on Kettle river. A freighter, by the name of Wm. Aspen, was hauling the paraphernalia of the Ringer restaurant of Marcus to this city, and in the trail wagon was about $300 worth of mattresses, furniture, carpets, etc., for W. H. Jones, the furniture dealer, of this city. At Edwards' ferry camp for the night was made, and the party, consisting of the driver and Mr. and Mrs. Ringer and family, went to sleep without extinguishing their camp fire. A strong breeze was blowing, and sparks from the fire set the oil-soaked canvas covers of the two loads to blazing, and before the campers became aware of this fact almost the entire contents of the two wagons were consumed.

Parts of the wagon boxes were burned, but the wagons were saved from serious damage by backing them into the river. Aspen reached Grand Forks with the charred remains of his load about 2 p.m. today.

For the last two days there have been so many passengers for Grand Forks that it has been found necessary to put two stages on the road from Marcus. The bad piece of road across the North Fork from the city has been permanently repaired by order of mayor Manly, and there is no more danger of teams miring down in this spot.

The other night, about 9 o'clock, an immense cottonwood tree came down the North Fork and lodged against the middle pier of the bridge, reaching nearly across the river. After three hours of hard work the citizens succeeded in ridding the bridge of this menace to its safety. A rope was made fast to one end of the tree and it took 25 men to pull hard enough to give it a start.

Maurice O'Connor who, with his brother, owns the Humming Bird, nine miles north of Grand Forks, reports uncovering six feet of solid ore on the vein, 300 feet north of where they have been working.

The tunnel on the Bonita, the nearest mine to the city upon which work is being done, is running into quartz which is quite heavily mineralized. The workmen expect to tap the vein in a very few days, and their progress is being watched with intense interest.

PORT OF NELSON.

Exports of Ore and Matte in April Aggregated $427,403.

By the courtesy of the collector of the port of Nelson we are enabled to give the following table showing the exports, imports and collections for the month of April. It will be noted that the exports of matte nearly equal in value the exports of ore, and that the matte shipped from the Trail smelter during the month was valued for duty at nearly $200,000.

EXPORTS.

Ore, 3,338 tons	$222,707
*Matte, 426 tons	204,696
Total for the mine	$427,403
The Forest	1,303
Animals	1,974
Manufactures	2,554
Total exports	$433,234

*Nelson, 64 tons, $12,957; Trail. 12 tons, $192,639.

IMPORTS.

Dutiable	$101,759
Free	15,467
Total	$117,226
Duty collected	$ 29,3[illegible]

Uncle Sam's Congratulations.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 24.—The president sent the following congratulatory message to Queen Victoria: "To the ambassador of the United States, London—The president desires you to convey to the Queen his sincere congratulations and those of the American people upon the celebration of her 79th birthday. (Signed) SHERMAN."

Jubilee Pardons.

DUBLIN, May 24.—It is believed to be certain that many, perhaps all, of the political prisoners, including the invincibles Jas. Fitzharris, Larry Hamlon and Mullet, will be pardoned early in June in commemoration of the 60th year of the reign of Queen Victoria.

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DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY, BETWEEN

SPOKANE, ROSSLAND AND NELSON.

LEAVE.		ARRIVE.
10:15 a. m	ROSSLAND	3:40 p. m
8:50 a. m	NELSON	5:35 p. m
8.00 a. m	SPOKANE	6.00 p. m

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E. W. LILJEGRAN,

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