

MINING MATTERS.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Michigan men have invested in a group of mines in the Lardeau country.

A Rossland and Slocan syndicate has bought the Snow Shoe mine, Greenwood camp.

Shipments of ore from Slocan mines during the first 15 days of March amounted to 696 1-2 tons.

The War Eagle Company has placed a large order for hose and other fire apparatus with the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Co., of Toronto, through their B. C. representative, A. G. McKenney.

The North Star mine, East Kootenay, is shipping from 75 to 100 tons of ore per day to the Trail smelter. The railway from Cranbrook to the end of the North Star tramway, over a distance of 21 miles, is completed.

The Chapleau Consolidated Gold Mining Company, Limited has recently been registered in London, Eng., with a capital of £75,000, in £1 shares, for the purpose of acquiring and developing the Chapleau group, on Lemon creek.

The points in dispute between the miners and mine owners in the Nelson camp have been all settled with the exception of one regarding the wages of muckers. The owners want a scale which will provide for less being paid for second class men than is paid for first class workers.

The Hall Mines, Ltd., of London, Eng., have transferred to Wm. Curtis Ward and Wm. George Jefferies, their entire property in consideration of \$50,000 in six per cent, first mortgage bonds. Mr. Ward who is named as principal, is general manager of the Bank of B. C., at Vancouver.

As the result of a conference which was held a few days ago between representatives of the mine owners and men involved in the dispute over wages at Rossland it is expected that an agreement will be arrived at within a few days which will effectually dispose of the trouble. The men will hereafter work on a piece scale.

No ore was shipped from any of the mines in Rossland camp last week, the first time in years that this has happened. Much work is, however, being done at the mines, and shipments on an active scale will be resumed as soon as a settlement of the labor dispute is arrived at. Most of the leading companies are utilizing the time to increase their facilities and will be in a better position than ever to handle ore when the trouble is over.

A meeting of the shareholders of the Okanagan Free Gold Mines was called to meet in Rossland on April 3 for the purpose of sanctioning the reconstruction of the company. The object of reconstruction is to enable it to make the shares assessable to a limited extent. It is proposed that the new company will have a capital stock of \$200,000, divided into 2,000,000 shares of the par value of ten cents each. Of these shares 1,600,000 will be divided amongst the present shareholders share per share. The remaining 400,000 shares will be placed in the treasury as a reserve fund. The 1,600,000 shares will be issued at eight cents paid up, the balance of two cents to be payable by assessment.

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO.

A new compressor plant, hoist, ore cars and steel rails are being installed

at the Sirdar mine, in the Western Shoal Lake region, Lake of the Woods.

A controlling interest in the Manitou Lake Mining Company, which owns several properties in the Manitou country, Rainy River district, has been purchased by a Detroit syndicate.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

HAIL INSURANCE CO. TROUBLE.

There has been further trouble recently in connection with the management of the Manitoba Mutual Hail Insurance Company and as a result it is given out that President Townsend and possibly one of the directors will retire from the company's board, while W. C. Graham, who has been connected with the grain trade in Winnipeg, assumes the duty of manager and secretary-treasurer vice Taylor resigned. J. H. Schultz, one of the directors, has been appointed office assistant and travelling agent. An audit of the company's affairs is being made at the request of the board. Things have not been going on very harmoniously among the directors of the company owing to differences with regard to the appointment of a manager and at a meeting held last Saturday a faction which represents the perpetuation of the regime which was supposed to have been ended at the annual meeting of last winter were defeated on a motion on this question and Mr. Graham was elected over their nominee. This defeat was followed by a brutal assault at a late hour that night on one of the men who voted against them. The new management represents the interests of the farmers on the board and the change is to be accompanied, we understand, by a thorough reorganization of the company and the basis on which it does business. There are about 3,000 policies now in force on the company's books representing a large amount of insurance. This is regarded as a good asset and will be made the basis of an active canvass for new business this year. It is also proposed to rearrange the plan on which the insurance is written so as to make the cost much less to the farmers. A mistake was evidently made in not dealing entirely with the services of the old board, at the annual meeting.

INSURANCE ITEMS.

J. Lydiatt, superintendent of the Dominion of Canada Guarantee and Accident Insurance Co., was in Winnipeg this week. J. P. Clarke, of Exeter, Ontario, who has been appointed manager at Winnipeg for this company, also arrived here this week and will enter upon his duties at once. Mr. Clarke is a brother of W. J. Clarke, manager here for the Manufacturers' Life.

Lac Du Bonnet Company.

This company has been re-organized by the election of a new board of directors, as follows: Dr. Gray, president, A. M. Nanton, vice-president, Walter T. Kirby, secretary-treasurer, and the following directors: Wm. Whyte, J. H. Munson, F. L. Patton, G. C. Mills, Wm. Brydon, and R. R. Scott. The sum of \$70,000 new capital has been subscribed by the sale of shares of the company, and further sale of treasury stock has been discontinued. The railway to the company's property is being pushed forward. New plant is being put in and the company expect to place a large

quantity of material on the market during the present season. This is one of the most important industrial enterprises yet floated in Manitoba.

Export Live Stock Trade.

Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, April 4.

The chief topic in this department of the trade at present is the prospect of the Imperial government's placing an embargo on Argentine cattle on account of foot and mouth disease being among the herds and according to many private cables received during the past two weeks from the most prominent salesmen on this point the indications are that it will go into effect on May 1st. This, of course, will be looked forward to with great interest as it no doubt will mean considerable to the Canadian shipper owing to the fact that our cattle have to compete with South America stock in all the leading foreign markets and as the quality of the latter has improved to such extent within the past four or five years they have competed very favorably with Canadian cattle, in fact, at certain seasons in the year they have at times sold for more money than ours, consequently if the importation of the same is prohibited into Great Britain the opinion of many in the trade here is that it will mean a boom to Canadian exporters during the coming season. The opening of navigation from the port of Montreal will likely be later than for the past few seasons on account of the severe weather and heavy snow storms, but notwithstanding this fact shippers in some cases have already commenced to make preparations for their summer business for which the prospects are fairly good, that is providing present prices in the foreign markets are maintained. The trade this spring has not been as active as that of 1899 on account of several reasons, the first of which is that Canadian shippers lost considerable money this winter by contracting for all the space from St. John, N. E., and Portland at 45c to 50s. Another reason is that ocean freight for May and June is likely to be scarce in consequence of which rates are held high and shippers do not feel disposed to make contracts at present, but steamship agents are firm in their views and some talk as high as 60s for Liverpool space. A contract for 1,000 spaces for May and June shipment to Liverpool has been made at 47s 6d. All the Glasgow freight on the Donalson line has been contracted for at 40s per head without insurance, for the entire season and it is understood the same rate has been accepted by the Allans. There was not the same competition in the market this spring from American shippers for Ontario cattle and the result was that shippers had little difficulty in contracting for them at 4 1-2 to 5c per pound, live weight. Supplies of cattle in Ontario and Quebec are claimed to be larger this year than last and generally of good quality.

Business for Sale.

A full stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, also store building and warehouse, situated in one of the best towns in the Northwest, surrounded by a thickly settled farming community. This is a first-class opening for a man with a capital of between \$2,000 and \$3,000. The stock is fresh and the building new. For particulars apply to J. W. Kelly, Edmonton, Alta.