

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Gold has been struck on Finley Creek, Kootenay district, and a great many Chinese are moving in from the Wild Horse country to work the placers.

Men working on the government trail from Goat river to the Fort Shepherd trail have found gold quartz on the route. The news has drawn many prospectors thither.

Work in the galena mines at Upper Kootenay is at a standstill. The Ainsworth Company have only a few men employed, and the Connecticut Company are nearly idle.

It is rumoured that the iron mine at Socke, owned by F. G. Richards & Co., of Victoria, has been sold to English capitalists and that it will soon be opened and smelting works established.

The mines at Kootenay are developing well, according to report of Gold Commissioner Vowell, and are giving every appearance of yielding an abundant supply of good ore. The "Ella" and "New Jerusalem" claims are giving rich indications.

A large party of eastern gentlemen, connected with the Kootenay Mining and Smelting Company, having a mining expert from Germany with them, came over the Northern Pacific line and passed up to the lake on Sept. 1st, their object being to locate a smelter and erect plant.

Great complaints are heard on all sides from miners and others in the Kootenay district on account of the uncertainty which prevails with reference to the Ainsworth land grant. It is said that unless something is done shortly in this matter it will very much retard the progress of mining in that section.

It is said that petroleum has been discovered in British Columbia. It was observed floating on a small creek about 100 miles from Victoria. It is opaque and nearly as thick as molasses; poured on paper it burns freely and emits the odor of coal oil. It is supposed that near this spot will be found a large supply of native petroleum.

A large number of miners from Loino Creek arrived in Victoria in September. They report the mines have been worked out, and none of those who came down had any more than they went up with. There has been some gold taken out, but the money expended in getting it will nearly balance this. A few, however, have taken out somewhat more than expenses.

At the Shuswap Silver Mine a tunnel has been driven for 50 feet, and some cross-cuts have been made. The company are now sinking a shaft and report the ore improving as work progresses. There is an almost inexhaustible quantity of ore, and if it is found to carry silver in paying quantity it is expected that Montreal capitalists will immediately commence the development of the mine.

The Kootenay Mining and Smelting Company are very active and persevering in their efforts to get to work this year. They have completed their work in so far as getting communication with the Northern Pacific railroad, having now a direct route from thence to the mines. Parties going to the mines can now go

from Sand Point, on the Northern Pacific railroad, direct to any part of the lake in twenty-four hours by taking the new road from Mud slough to the river at Bonner's Ferry, and the company's steamer to the mines.

The representatives of a company of eastern and Chinese capitalists have been in negotiation with the government of British Columbia for some time with the object of introducing the manufacture of iron and steel on a large scale. It is proposed to erect extensive smelting works near the iron deposits on the east coast, and proceed to open them and manufacture steel and iron for export to China and Japan. The company have unlimited means.

The gold strike on Granite Creek, a branch of the Semilkameen River close to the American boundary, is attracting wide attention. Upwards of 1,000 men are in the district, whose success varies from food to \$100 a day per man. Access to the diggings is gained via Hope and Fraser river, and provisions are plentiful. Benches on the upper part of the creek are said to prospect well, nuggets worth from \$8 to \$10 are being taken out. The creek is staked off for two and a half miles from its mouth. There is also reported a rich quartz strike on Kettle River, but as yet little is known of it.

## UNITED STATES.

The Calumet and Hecla product for the month of August was 2,575 tons, 1,285 pounds.

The output of the mineral products of the United States, in 1884, were valued at \$103,104,620.

The production of phosphates in South Carolina for 1884 was 409,000 tons of rock and 236,884 tons of fertilizers.

The total amount of assessments levied by the Eureka Silver Mining Company, of Nevada, is \$350,000. The total amount paid in dividends aggregates nearly \$5,000,000.

Of gold and silver the mint authorities estimate the production in the United States, in 1884, at \$30,800,000 gold, and \$48,800,000 silver (coining rate); total, \$79,600,000.

The Plymouth Consolidated Mining Company, California, have paid their twenty-eighth successive monthly dividend of fifty cents a share, aggregating \$50,000 and making \$450,000 paid to their shareholders this year.

## Unified Diamond Mines (Limited).

This company has been organized in London, England, with a capital of £10,000,000, with the view to purchasing as large a number as possible of the diamond mining properties, situated in the four mines, Kimberley, De Beers, Dutoitspan, and Bultfontein. These four mines, since their discovery in 1870, have produced more than £40,000,000 worth of diamonds. According to the official statistics of the Cape Colony, the product of the four mines added together exceeded during the last two years the respective figures of £2,680,000, and £2,480,000, even at the actual low price of diamonds. At a meeting of directors held August 7th, the note upon the purchase scheme was amended. Indebted companies are to pay fifteen shares of £20 each for eight debentures of £20 each.

## A Large Piece of Amber.

A piece of amber weighing eight pounds is at present being exhibited in the Mark Museum at Dantzig, for which the owner has refused £1,500. It is probably the largest piece in the world without blemish. Frederick the Great, more than a century ago, paid the same sum for a piece weighing 13lbs., which is preserved in the mineralogical museum at Berlin; but it has gaps and cavities. Two beautiful pieces of work in amber are also to be seen in Berlin. One is a flute, which also was an acquisition of Frederick the Great. The other is a complete tobacco-pipe, belonging to Frederick William III., the father of the present Emperor; it bears an admirably carved likeness of that monarch.

## NOTES.

The exports of iron ore from Spain during the first five months of 1885 were 1,226,377 tons.

Four thousand five hundred and sixty feet is the depth recently reached by a Prussian diamond drill.

The opinion is now entertained that the art of making artificial stone is pre-historic, and that the Pyramids were built of that material.

Spain exported during the first five months of 1885, 51,235 tons of pig lead compared with 52,119 tons during the same period in 1884.

From a report of the Commissioner of Lands of British North Borneo it appears that gold exists in considerable quantities in that territory.

The total value of all minerals raised in the United Kingdom in 1884 is reported as £61,232,028 at the mine, as against £64,635,834 in 1883.

The exportation of ingot copper from Spain during the first five months of 1885 amounts to 11,688 tons compared with 6,223 tons during the same period in 1884.

The deepest mines in Great Britain are in Cornwall and Devon, the three deepest being Dolcoath, 2,416 feet; Clifford Amalgamated, 2,232 feet; and Tresavean, 2,100.

El Callao: this famous Venezuelan gold mine produced 10,518 ounces of gold during July, worth about \$203,786. It paid a dividend of \$2.40 per share, aggregating \$77,280.

C. G. Hussey & Co., at Pittsburg, Pa., have just made six sheets of copper that are believed to be the largest ever rolled. Each sheet is 13 feet 9 inches long and 9 feet 7 inches wide.

The deepest boring in existence is for coal near the village of Schladebuch, between Corbetta and Leipzig, which has reached a depth of 4,559 feet. This boring is 1,872 inches at the bottom and 11 inches at surface.

The New South Wales Gold Product for 1884: according to the annual report of Mr. C. S. Wilkinson, F.G.S., F.I.S., Inspector, was 104,932.68 ounces (\$2,100,000), being 16,844.70 ounces (\$316,000) less than product of 1883. Thus it is apparent that the annual product of the Australian gold fields continues to decrease steadily year by year.