

# MINES AND MINING

What is Going on in... Shaft, Drift, Stope, Winze, Etc., Etc.

## THE HALL MINES.

The Smelter Is the Main Reliance of the Country.

The first ordinary general (statutory) meeting of the Hall Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, was held on Thursday, Oct. 4, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E. C., London, Lord Ernest Hamilton, chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary (pro tem.), Mr. A. H. Verney, having read the notice convening the meeting, the chairman said:

"Gentlemen, you will understand, of course, that this reconstructed company has been in existence so short a time that the information we are in a position to lay before you today is necessarily rather limited. However, such as it is, it is, I think you will admit, decidedly good, and it can be told in a very few words. You know what the position of the company was previous to the reconstruction. The ore in the upper levels had worked out, but there were strong indications that the ore would be picked up again at depth, as has been the case in so many mines in the same district. The money which was obtained under the reconstruction was principally subscribed with the view to sinking in order to pick up this ore at depth. This work of sinking has been pushed forward as energetically as possible since the reconstructed company commenced operations. The mine has been cleared of water, and the necessary hoisting and pumping machinery has been ordered. However, you will naturally understand that the time has been so short that it is quite impossible that the workings can have been carried to this necessary depth—that is to say, to the depth where it is expected to come in contact with these high grade ores again. In the meantime the intermediate levels have been developed, the work of development has been pushed forward on these levels at the same time as the sinking has been done, and it will be gratifying to you to learn that the work on these intermediate levels has been by no means barren. We have been led to anticipate by our manager that he would probably in the course of this week, or the next week, cut veins in levels No. 6, 7 or 8, and this morning we received a cable which came extremely opportunely for this meeting—(laughter)—which announced that he had cut the veins in two of these levels. You will doubtless be interested to hear the contents of the cablegram: 'No. 7 level, west—The ore is 12 inches thick and continues as rich as ever. No. 7 level, east—The south lode or vein shows a body of ore 5 feet wide. The ore is good and will pay. No. 6 level, west—which we take to mean No. 8 level, but that is immaterial—shows a body of ore 7 feet wide, averaging 15 ounces of silver and 4 1/2 per cent. of copper.' You will admit that it is satisfactory as far as it goes, but we have no wish to attach too much importance to this cable at present. With regard to the mine itself, that is about all I am in a position to tell you today. As to the smelter, we have an enterprise of an entirely different nature. Of course, the mine is more or less of a speculation, as all mines are, but a speculation in which the chances appear to be very greatly in favor of success. In the smelter we have what may be looked upon practically as a commercial enterprise; that is to say, an enterprise to which we can look for a steady and consistent return which will not be dependent upon chance. I may mention here that it is the intention of the present board to carry on the work of the mine and the smelter as two separate concerns—absolutely separate concerns. This was not the practice in the old company. The result of the practice which we intend to carry out will be that when the mine becomes a producer the smelter will purchase ore from the mine exactly in the same way as it purchases custom ores from outside mines, so that the accounts of the two concerns will not get mixed up. I think you will agree with me that it is a much more satisfactory way of carrying on the business. With regard to the smelter itself, it will be satisfactory to you to learn that the prospects of business are considerably greater than was anticipated at the time of the reconstruction. By business, I mean the prospect of business with regard to the smelting of custom ores. It was doubtful at one time whether the amount of business which would come to us in the first year would be sufficient to employ our smelting works up to their full capacity, but it now appears that the prospects promise to be not only fully up to the capacity of our smelter, but even in excess, so much so that our manager has advised us that in a very short time it may be desirable to erect an additional furnace. However, that is a matter which is still under consideration. You will see from these few remarks that the position of the shareholders in this company appears to be quite a good one. In the first place if the mine turns out as satisfactorily as is anticipated, it is, of course, needless to say that the shares will stand at a considerably higher value than they do at the present moment, and if that is the case we may with tolerable confidence look forward to paying the whole or the greater part of our development expenses in the mine by the returns from the smelter. But if, on the other hand, the mine turns out an absolute blank—which appears far from probable in view of the recent cables—then we have the smelter to fall back upon, and from that smelter we can anticipate a fair return, and a return which will be steady and consistent, and on the perpetually increasing scale as the country in the neighborhood becomes opened up, and as new

mines which surround the smelting works, become producers. In conclusion, I may add that we are to be congratulated on having an exceptionally good staff at Nelson, and I can assure you that not only is that staff determined to carry this business to a successful issue, but the present board in London are equally determined. There is one matter which I should like to touch upon briefly, because it might have excited the curiosity of several shareholders here. Certain communications have recently appeared in the press signed by Mr. F. Walker, who styles himself 'The Chairman of the Shareholders and Debenture Holders Committee.' Those communications have naturally led to inquiries from certain shareholders, who are anxious to obtain a certain amount of information regarding them. The inference to be drawn from these communications—an inference which one can only imagine is intended—is that Mr. Walker is chairman of a committee which has been constituted during the lifetime of the present company and which is still in existence. This is not the case. Mr. Walker was chairman of a committee which was informally appointed at a meeting of shareholders and debenture holders, on February 20 last, in the time of the old company. This committee collaborated with the then board of the old company, and the result of their joint deliberations was the present reconstructed company. The moment the scheme of reconstruction was carried through that committee ceased to exist absolutely. Mr. Walker then made a claim for recognition of his services, and this claim was very necessarily declined. Thereupon Mr. Walker changed his attitude and assumed that of a dissenting shareholder, claiming that the shares which stood in his name—which he admitted were the property of other parties—should be acquired at a price considerably in excess of that which he is entitled to. Mr. Walker, it will be seen in making these press communications, desires to obtain information that will be useful to him in the case of the arbitration which is now pending with regard to that matter, and in order to strengthen his hand in doing so he has adopted a title to which he has absolutely no claim. He has adopted it with the view, we imagine, of creating an impression that his interests run parallel to your interests as shareholders. This is not the case; in fact, it is diametrically the opposite, because it will be obvious that any money which goes into Mr. Walker's pocket of into the pocket of those who are beneficially interested in the shares standing in his name will come out of the pockets of the shareholders. I thought it best to mention this matter in case there might be any misconception in the minds of shareholders present. That is all I have got to tell you this afternoon. Of course, if anybody wishes to ask questions I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my power. (Applause.) Mr. A. L. McLaren asked if the smelter was running at present. The chairman replied that the smelter had been running since August 24; he meant the larger smelter, but he believed the small smelter would very soon be in operation. Mr. J. R. Brown, as one of the late directors, said he might entirely corroborate all that had fallen from the chairman with reference to Mr. Walker. On the motion of Mr. Vere H. Smith, seconded by Mr. E. H. Bovill, a vote of thanks was accorded the chairman for presiding, and the meeting terminated.

## THE SUNSET MINE.

Ore Shoot Is Two Feet Wide of High Grade Ore.

Mr. J. C. Drewry, managing director of the Canadian Goldfields syndicate, limited, returned yesterday from a trip to the Slovan and East Kootenay, during which he visited the Sunset mine at Whitewater. Mr. Drewry, in conversation with a representative of the Miner yesterday, confirmed the report of the recent strike in that property. They were working still, he said, on the rich ore shoot which was encountered a little over two weeks ago. It is over two feet wide of solid high grade galena.

The company proposes to start shipping just as soon as there is sufficient snow to rawhide the ore to the Kaslo and Slovan railway at Whitewater.

Mr. Drewry and Mr. W. H. Jeffery, the company's mining engineer, also visited the Commonwealth group, about 12 miles from Crawford Bay, where the company have a force of men carrying on systematic development. This property is rapidly developing into a mine. The double compartment shaft is now down over 50 feet and the tunnel is in a distance of 240 feet. The ledge is 12 feet wide of good concentrating ore and containing a considerable amount of clean ore, which is being sorted. The last assays obtained from the clean ore gave 96 in gold; 152 ounces in silver and 33 per cent copper.

Mr. Drewry leaves today for Crawford Bay to make arrangements for carrying on active operations on the Commonwealth all winter. The St. Eugene Consolidated, Mr. Drewry said, has now an abundance of water, and the 400 ton concentrator is running to its full capacity and turning out 100 tons of concentrates every 24 hours. The St. Eugene Consolidated, Mr. Drewry said, had recently received a further order for 2,500 tons of their concentrates, to be shipped to the Guggenheim Bros. at Antofagasto, Chili, and the company are now filling the order.

## THE MOUNTAIN LION.

A Number of Assays Show That the Ore Is of Good Grade.

Mr. Niel Cochrane, M. E., has just returned from a visit to Republic district and the Burnt Basin section. While in

the Republic camp he examined on behalf of eastern clients the Mountain Lion mine. Careful samples were taken of every portion of the mine and from these 363 assays were made. The result of the assays was satisfactory, as it shows that the ore throughout the Mountain Lion is of a good grade. He reports that Republic is rather quiet, and that what is needed to liven it up is a railway. Work is in progress on a good many properties there and some of them are developing into mines. Mr. Cochrane spent three days in the Burnt Basin section. It rained, however, all the time that he was there. The Mother Lode, Contact, Solid Gold and Golden Age were examined. Only a little work has been done on these properties, and, therefore, it was impossible to determine their true value. The deepest shaft was 50 feet. The country rock is a metamorphosed limestone. Mr. Cochrane says the surface indications are good and he thinks the section is one that is full of promise.

## Payroll at Trail.

There are now 350 men employed in the Trail smelter and the payroll runs from \$27,000 to \$28,000 per month. When the capacity of the smelter is doubled, the plant for which is now being installed, the payroll will be largely increased. There are a number of prospects close to Trail and if these were worked more there would be a considerable addition to the payroll of the town. Trail is rapidly coming to the front again.

## THE VELVET.

Reports Submitted to Annual Meeting Show Its Good Condition.

The first ordinary (statutory) meeting of the Velvet (Rossland) Mine, Limited, was held on Thursday, Oct. 11, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E. C., London, under the presidency of Mr. Alexander Davidson, the chairman of the company.

The secretary, Mr. W. A. Stearns, having read the notice convening the meeting, the chairman said:

"Although there is no business to be transacted at this meeting, I take it that the shareholders would desire some little information as to what has taken place since the formation of the company. Before, however, saying anything on that subject I would like to refer to the position of matters when this company took over the Velvet mine from the old company. In the first place I would remind you that the old company had spent over £20,000 in developing this mine. For this expenditure they had put up certain machinery and plant; the shaft had been sunk to a depth of 300 feet; levels had been driven at a depth of 100 feet, 160 feet and 250 feet, for a distance of 360 feet, 250 feet and 100 feet respectively; and an adit had been driven 430 feet. In all some 2,000 feet of underground developments had been completed. That was the position at the time the prospectus was issued. The consulting engineer further stated at that time that the ore available down to the 250 foot level was upwards of 100,000 tons, of which 20,000 tons by being sorted would give a value of from \$40 to \$50 per ton, and the whole 100,000 tons would average \$20 per ton. He also stated that the cost of mining, transport and treatment should not exceed \$15 per ton. The prospectus stated that the working capital of the company would be £50,000, and that amount was fully subscribed and allotted, and 10s. per share has been called up. The first thing that the directors did with the money was to pay off the existing mortgage of £10,000, which was referred to in the prospectus. At the same time they took immediate steps to have the property transferred, and it was duly transferred on July 9 into the names of the trustees for the new company, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper and Mr. C. A. Hurry. Subsequently to that on the suggestion of the consulting engineer and manager, we acquired what the old Velvet mine had not acquired, namely, the surface rights of the property, embracing timber, etc. And not only that, but our manager has arranged to procure an additional square mile of surface rights at a low cost, which will be sufficient for a long time to supply the mine with its requirements. Immediately after the allotment the directors proceeded to order a considerable amount of machinery and plant. They ordered a complete air compressor plant and two steam boilers for working the same. These are now almost finished, and, according to the latest accounts from the manufacturers, the whole of the plant will be shipped within about three weeks—the boilers rather sooner. At the mine itself the manager has in the meantime made considerable progress with the excavations and building necessary for the compressor plant, so that when it arrives there they will be able to proceed rapidly with its erection. I am reminded that the plant includes all the necessary nozzles and rock drills for the working over a considerable area of the drives and shafts. As you will have gathered from the prospectus there is a very large amount of ore available, and it is, therefore, of the utmost importance in your interests that the time should be lost in the erection of such machinery as will rapidly open up the mine so as to get this ore out. I need not allude to the quality of the ore, because I trust that in a very short time this mine will speak for itself. (Heard, Hear.)

"According to a cablegram received from the other side we shall be shipping in the course of next month. In the middle of August, after having settled with the consulting engineer as to the machinery, we despatched him to the other side, and he arrived at the mine on Aug. 31. Previously to his going out, and subsequently to his arrival he made sundry important recommendations to us, coinciding to a large extent with what he stated in the prospectus, but also embracing other points dealing with matters which have arisen since then. In order that you may understand these recommendations I will say a few words about the developments on the mine to which they apply. You are aware that there is a main shaft, and a subsidiary shaft not very far from it. The main shaft had been sunk to a depth of 300 feet. At a distance of 1,450 feet down the hill from the top of the shaft a tunnel was opened for the purpose of driving in at a depth of 300 feet or thereabouts, with the view of draining the mine through that adit or tunnel, and

Continued on Page 3.

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## AMONG

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WATER

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