

Happenings at the Mines.

ALBERNI.

A. R. HEYLAND returned recently from Alberni after having inspected the work on the Nanaimo-Alberni Company's proposition, for the purpose of presenting a report to the directors.

"I went up China Creek," said Mr. Heyland in giving a brief account of the trip, "and struck the Cataract Hydraulic Claims, where they are putting in a mile and quarter of fluming. This is a solid structure four by two. A fine dam costing \$2,000 has been built, the banks being 200 feet in height. Both the Cataract and the Duke of York, which I visited afterwards, have sawmills of their own. The flume at the last named claim is six by two, is composed of sawn lumber, and encircles the bluffs from forty to fifty feet in height. From there I went on to the Constance which is the property of the Nanaimo-Alberni Gold Mining Company. A shaft is being sunk to bedrock with the intention of putting in a long drift across the flats, this claim being the only one with flats on it; all the rest are benches. The Nanaimo-Alberni Company own about 300 acres and the gravel benches all show gold. At bedrock on the Constance Claim coarse gold was found in one shaft, and at Williams Creek they are still staking off claims.

I also visited the Alberni Consolidated Company's mines, where for a distance of 30 feet sunk on the ledge, the latter has widened from fifteen inches to three feet six inches, and gold is easily perceptible in the rock. Picked specimens would go about \$1,000 to the ton. The prospects for the district generally are unmistakably good; both hydraulic and quartz claims are doing well, prospectors are staking off ledges all the time, and a hopeful feeling prevails everywhere.

The fact of gold being discovered in the Nanaimo-Alberni Gold Company's District is the more satisfactory inasmuch as it furnishes an almost safe indication that more country of a similar character will be found on this side of the divide, which implies an immense advantage to Nanaimo."

ASHCROFT.

It is expected there will be through stages twice a week from now on carrying mails both ways.

Cataline's pack train of 36 animals is loading for the Peace River Country. After this he packs from Quesnelle up. The distance to be packed from Ashcroft to his destination is about 420 miles.

The outlook at present would indicate that much freight will be taken into Lillooet section during the coming summer and autumn. It is expected that machinery for the Lillooet quartz mines will be shipped at no distant date.

It is reported that a contract for hauling the Cariboo Gold Fields Company's pipe has been let to Contractor Bambridge, and that 250 draft horses will be sent in to do the work. The price paid is not reported, nor is the news of the contract being let as yet confirmed. It is thought, however, by those best informed, to be true.

Charles Skinner, who has a large meadow near Tatlow Lake, reports quite an excitement over the quartz mines. Mr. Skinner visited the ledges and reports that twelve men are in there now. Cinnibar, quartz and copper are the minerals found there. He says that there is almost too much snow on these ranges of mountains for much prospecting.

AINSWORTH.

Clark and Van Hook have made a shipment of twelve tons of ore to the Pilot Bay smelter from the Tariff, and expect to make another shortly.

We hear that a piece of quartz was picked up within a mile of Ainsworth. It contains a quantity of free gold and was estimated to be worth about \$4,000 per ton. Mr. F. Fitch, who picked it up, is now trying to locate the ledge.

BIG BEND.

Two benches on Carnes Creek were located lately by Messrs. Wolcott and Grainer. They are very accessible hydraulic propositions and no doubt rich, as the locators panned out a considerable number of colors from dirt raked here and there. The locations are each 88 acres.

It is reported that Wm. Kirkup and George J. Aitkins have closed a big mining deal with Chicago capitalists who have organized the French Creek Hydraulic Mining Company with \$2,000,000 capital. It is also said, and is believed to be true, that a contract has been let for \$50,000 worth of pipe and machinery.

CARIBOO.

Work is beginning on all the hydraulic claims. Weather is fine and the snowfall gives a promise of an unusually good supply of water for the season.

Gangs of men are at work shovelling snow out of the ditches tributary to the Mosquito Creek Hydraulic Mines. This work requires to be done every spring, and in the case of the Mosquito Creek Claims occupies as much time and is as expensive as the working of the claims during the piping season. Similarly the Gold Flake Company's men are removing the snow from the company's ditches.

GOLDEN.

Capt. Armstrong has commenced to bring his ore from the Vernon Creek silver mine, per steamer Dutchess, to Golden, and will ship it from here to one of the smelters.

The steamer Duchess on her first trip of the season found the water low for this time of year. She had a very large amount of freight, including machinery for the Wild Horse Hydraulic Mines.

KASLO.

The records show that the prospecting season has commenced. Several claims in the Salmon River District have been located.

The Kaslo & Slocan Railway are sending out four or five parties of surveyors to finish the taking up of their land grant in two weeks.

Mr. George Gooderham, who is president of the Bank of Toronto, is considering the advisability of establishing a branch of the bank here. He will probably return to Kaslo before long.

There are eleven men working on the Antoine. On account of the water the work will be closed down in a few days. Five carloads of ore have been shipped during the winter.

There are about twenty tons of ore a day coming from the K. and S. now. Owing to the danger from slides and bad roads most of the mines are not shipping now. The trains are running on time.

Work on the Texas, on Springer Creek, owned by Garland, Papwork & Co., is stopped. They have shipped ten tons of ore and are in 65 feet on the new tunnel. They expect to strike the ledge in 125 feet more.