

will be very actively prosecuted, as well as on the rich vein now so thoroughly shown up in the old or upper workings. The shareholders of this company (The Great Western Mines, Ltd.) should hear something before many months are past that will afford them great satisfaction. The Silver Cup will of course ship heavily this winter, and the owners of that property also can congratulate themselves on the condition of their mine. Another, so far, less known claim will probably ship more or less this season, the Old Gold, where development has shown splendid bodies of very high grade ore. If only the railway were in the district, many other of the lesser lights would shine more brilliantly in the public eye, but in a country where in some places at present it would scarcely pay to bring out solid metallic silver, claim owners have perforce to be contented too frequently with doing assessments and holding on to their ground in the hope of transportation being provided.

Permit me to congratulate your correspondent (at the foot of page 394, last issue) on his remarks about smelting. It has been my lot in this country to see some exceedingly good work in that direction, and some that would disgrace a "pot puller," on the same ore. In this as in most other matters, experientia docet.

ROSSLAND.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The announcement that under the amended mining laws of this province the various mining recorders throughout the province will hereafter collect the statistical information relating to the mineral output of their respective divisions will be received with some satisfaction throughout the province as well as abroad. This information is not only necessary but it has become indispensable in connection with the imposition of

the government tax. A government bureau of statistics, especially mineral statistics, is regarded by many as the best method to obtain reliable information, yet there is considerable experience to show that the statistical information prepared by the government is often stale by the time it reaches the public.

It is generally conceded that the ore in sight in the chief producers of Red Mountain guarantees the permanency of Rossland. One hears fabulous accounts of the quantity of ore which has been measured by the eye of the mining engineer, the diamond drill and the divining rod of the enthusiast. Exact figures are given in some cases and the French notation of a billion is even exceeded by these calculations. That the ore reserves of the Le Roi and Centre Star are something extraordinary as to quality seems well established and that the local reputation of other chief producers stands well is equally positive. Nelson has the advantage of Rossland as a townsite situation, but the latter distances the former in the important

item of ore production and shipment of ore in the ratio of as 162,000 tons is to 40,000 for the nine months and 20 days ending October 20. The advantage of valuation of the ore is, however, in favour of Nelson—proportionately considered. The Rossland output has heretofore for this year been estimated at \$16 per

ton gross while the Nelson ores are valued at \$20 gross. It may, however, be found after the official revision at the end of the year that in both cases the values have been somewhat over-estimated. But accepting these for the present the gross value of Rossland ores is \$2,592,000 while that of Nelson's 40,000 tons is valued at \$800,000 gross.

For the whole of 1899, 172,665 tons of Rossland ores were officially valued at \$3,229,036 or nearly \$18.71 per ton 58,302 tons of Nelson ores for the same period were officially valued at \$879,185 or \$15.08 per ton. According to these figures the Rossland ores have decreased \$2.71 per ton and Nelson ores increased \$4.92. There is some discrepancy in the Nelson figures as given, and the Rossland ores are at least \$1.00 per ton higher in the official figures than they should be. As the unit value of the ores is something that is now more or less being investigated the returns hereafter made will very likely be nearer the mark than formerly as a more direct system of obtaining these statistics will prevail.

Le Roi No. 4 (Great Western).—A recent discovery in this mine on the 1,000 foot level is reported. The pay shoot has been encountered in the west drift 116 feet from the shaft and another 164 feet from the shaft on the east drift. This mine is being developed by six tunnels. These aggregate about 15,000 ft. and have reached the western end of the property. The strike in the east drift is regarded as the best. About 400 feet of backs have thus been obtained. This mine, according to the statement of the management, will be in a position to ship about 500 tons daily next spring. The ore is self-fluxing and therefore can be treated much cheaper than other Rossland ores.

California.—Operations have been suspended. The pump has been taken from the shaft and all the employees except the watchman discharged. The California is a full sized claim opposite the White Bear and west of the Annie. It is equipped with a ten-drill compressor, a 15 h. p. induction motor and a 30 h.p. hoist. The development work consists of a shaft near the west line and a tunnel running north and south across the property. A good deal of cross cutting has been done. The best indications of ore are near the west line where a shaft has been sunk, but most of the work has been tunnelling without much regard to indications. The California is owned by the California Gold Mining Company and is one of the properties of the Miner-Graves syndicate. When the geological conditions of this property are better understood more substantial results will no doubt be obtained.

The Dominion Geological Survey party which has been working in the vicinity of the Kettle River country under the direction of Mr. R. W. Brock, has completed the field work for the season and have proceeded to Ottawa, where a report and maps of the district will be prepared. The area covered is from Rossland to the North Fork of Kettle River and from the international boundary line north to the head of the chief branch of Kettle River. The map will not, I am informed, be published until next summer.

The ore output from Rossland mines is now worth about 10,000 tons of the entire out-turn for 1899 of the same mines, and by the end of the present month