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MINING MATTERS.

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING.

Sandon ore shipments last week were: Payne, 180; Last Chance, 100; Slocan Star, 60; Ruth, 53; Coin, 15; J. G. Steele, 1. Total, 409 tons.

The Stook of the Indian Chief Mining Co. has been acquired by an English syndicate. This company owns the Splitzee claim, Rossland, consisting of 10½ acres with a strong and well defined vein 15 feet in width. Assays gave returns of about \$13 per ton.

N. W. ONTARIO.

It is rumored that McKenzie & Mann are negotiating for the purchase of the Hammond Reef. Wm MacKenzie is vice-president of this company.

At the Zenth mica mine, Rossport district, a gang of men have been at work all summer. They expect to ship 5,000 tons of mica during the coming winter, which is expected to net \$20 per ton. Other companies expect to commence working mica locations in the same district shortly.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The total shipments of gold dust from Dawson City this year have amounted to \$25,000,000.

Conditions at Vancouver.

The News-Advertiser of Vancouver takes the same view as The Commercial's Vancouver correspondent did when it speaks of the unsatisfactory condition of business in some lines in Vancouver. The News-Advertiser devotes a column editorial to the business situation in British Columbia, and the tone of the editorial is not altogether hopeful. The following are extracts from the News-Advertiser article:

Some time ago a considerable volume of trade in new channels, (Klondike trade), was started. There were however, certain circumstances or conditions connected with these new lines of trade which made it prudent not to calculate on their permanency, and this fact should have been considered by those who thought that the expansion of business justified large additions to the number of existing firms.

It will not now be disputed by any one who is acquainted with the subject, that in some lines of retail trade—especially in groceries and dry goods—there have been more firms in existence in the different towns of the province than were required by the volume of business. The result has been that the turnover of many of these merchants has not been large enough to yield a profit sufficient to pay expenses or to realize enough cash to meet amounts due to the wholesale houses from which they obtained their goods.

Of course, such methods created disturbance in business circles, and interfered with the trade of firms which otherwise were perfectly able to meet their engagements. Forced sales and liquidations have, however, necessarily prejudiced the legitimate trade of such firms and must cause the year's trading to be less satisfactory than would otherwise have been the case.

But it will be well to bear in mind that the prices of many commodities are higher than the average for some years and that world-wide conditions do not seem to indicate that the exceeding prosperity of the last few years is likely to continue.

Indeed, in one respect the effect of that prosperity; of the great demand for almost all commodities which has existed recently, must in itself tend to bring about a reaction—a slackening in the demand with a corresponding fall in values.

Three years ago when a general advance in prices was seen to be probable, the merchant or trader saw his stocks gradually appreciating in value, even though he had not disposed of them. Now it is likely that the opposite conditions will prevail and prices become weaker.

As the province has advanced and new settlements been formed by their energy they have made the trade arising therefrom tributary to Vancouver. But as these new settlements have increased, industries been started and villages grown into towns, eastern rivals have appeared with the object of either diverting or dividing the trade.



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