

From the Mining Camps

BOUNDARY.

We hear the "Big Copper" claim in this camp is sold to G. B. McAuley, of Spokane, one of the original owners of Cariboo Camp McKinney.

CAMP MCKINNEY.

S. H. Hayes, of Camp McKinney, is staying at the Metropole. "Camp McKinney is a busy centre," he said to the Province, "and the mines continue to turn out well. The Cariboo is still paying out dividends monthly, only they are growing larger. While you do not hear much of our camp on the coast, I can assure you that it is a hummer. A new townsite has been plotted and if lumber is plentiful a lot of building will be carried out this year. Work in the mines continues all winter, and the 20stamp mill of the Cariboo is running night and day."

ROSSLAND.

The year has been remarkable for the immense influx of foreign capital which has absorbed some of the better Rossland properties. First in size comes the British America Corporation, with investments of nearly \$5,000,000 in the north belt. Close after it came the purchase by the Gooderham-Blackstock Syndicate of the Centre Star for \$2,000,000 cash. The flotation of the Le Roi in London proved to be the financial triumph of the year. The stock was doubly subscribed, against 3,536,928 pounds in 1896. So, and since then it has risen steadily in value until according to the latest reports the shares were quoted at £8 17s. 6d., or an advance of 75 per cent.

A hundred thousand shares of War Eagle (at Rossland, B. C.) stock were recently sold in Toronto for \$2.70 per share net. The deal involved \$270,000. The stock was a part of the unused capital of the War Eagle Company, and the sale was made direct by the corporation. The total issued stock of the War Eagle now amounts to 1,750,000 shares, and there is still 250,000 shares remaining in the treasury.

SLOCAN.

P. O'Farrel writes: 'I have referred so often to the wealth of the Slocan that I must seem tiresome to go on repeating it, and yet I have never yet been able to convey even an idea of the boundless wealth stored in these mountains between Kootenay and Slocan lakes. It surpasses the wildest imaginings of the dreamer. It is true that that wealth is only in lead and silver. It has not the glitter and glamor of gold, but it is just as substantial and just as abiding, and I should like to have a kind of sledge-hammer literary force to drive home the knowledge of it to the minds of the people and statesmen of Canada.

LARDO.

We hear that the I. X. L. Group on the Lardo river has been acquired by the Associated Gold Mines of B. C., of London, and work will be resumed at once. An open cut of some 30 feet has exposed the vein. This has been cross cut and the result a fairly good ore chute, which will be followed up through the winter. They are driving some 100 to 150 and expect to have 200 to 300 tons of shipping ore by the spring.

In the same camp the Nettie L, one claim from I. X. L., is developing most satisfactorily. The Silver Cup is working also, and into better ore than ever. The Towser is also looking well and proving a good asset.

KAMLOOPS.

The mining receipts in Kamloops from January 1st to December 15th, 1898, were: Free miner's certificates, \$1,927, mining receipts, general, \$2,726.65; total, \$4,653.65.

Some activity is being displayed in developing the prospects on Coal Hill.

LYTTON.

Some good prospects have been located a few miles north of Lytton. Development is needed.

It is situated on McGillivray Mountain, and appears to cover extensions of the same veins as are on the first group. In this group four ledges have been discovered and prospected to some extent. The ledge of copper sulphides is some ten feet wide, and shows good values in gold and copper. The third group is Watkinson's, on which he has discovered three ledges, one particularly fine one of grey copper assaying over \$100 in gold, silver and copper values. There are short tunnels on all these ledges, but none are deep enough to give an exact idea of the size of the ledges.

COAST.

The Howe Sound district, on the mainland of British Columbia, is the scene of active development by the British Columbia Gold Mining Investors' Syndicate, of Glasgow, which is represented by G. S. Logan. The principal work is being done on the Iron Duke group of four claims, from which Mr. Logan has recently returned. A crosscut tunnel has been driven over sixty feet, and has run for 47 feet through iron and copper sulphide ore. When first struck, this ore assayed only \$2.47 gold and silver, but now shows \$17.49. The tunnel is within a quarter of a mile of the beach, and a waterfall 90 feet high will furnish power.

In the spring of 1897 a small syndicate of Vancouver business men outfitted a party to go north to the head waters of the Unuk river, where it was reported there was some good hydraulic ground. Upon their return in the autumn they not only reported having located three

hydraulic leases on Sulphate creek, a branch of the Unuk river, but had located a quartz claim carrying a peculiar character of rock, of which they could form no idea of its value, but which, upon being assayed, was found to carry over 450 ounces of silver per ton. Nothing was said of this, but as soon as possible last spring they returned to the north, and within a few days after beginning work on the claim, opened a 12-inch pay streak of high grade silver ore, assaying from 750 to 2,000 ounces silver per ton, and also found on the same claim some 300 feet distant another ledge averaging 4 feet 8 inches in width and carrying \$42 in gold, silver and copper, there being 1 oz. 11 dwts. gold. They have also thoroughly prospected the hydraulic ground and found good pay, the gold being coarse and easily saved. There is an abundance of water, and they appear to be satisfied that they have an exceedingly promising property in the gravel as well as the quartz.

A company is being organized to develop the Gold Standard, on Gambier Island, in Howe Sound. This property has a ledge six or seven feet wide, with ten inches of high grade galena and copper sulphide ore assaying as high as \$138, principally in gold. Mr. Logan is working on the Nulli Secundus, an extension of this ledge.

TEXADA ISLAND.

The prospects here should be excellent. Some little money has been spent in developments, and for a given area we don't know throughout B. C. where a similar condition could be found. Shafts are sunk to 360 feet, and seven steam plants are now in operation.

SHOAL BAY.

Shoal Bay, up till now, may be reckoned as the unknown quantity. We shall, however, hear from the Dorothy Morton this month.

A VALUABLE MINERAL.

The prospect of profit from the mica deposits of the Yellow Head Pass and other points in the Rockies are very bright. Some 300,000 pounds of this mineral are used annually in the United States, and the supply is so much less than the demand that 55 per cent. of the mica used is imported from Scandinavia and Russia. The substance is worth from \$1.20 to \$25 a pound, according to size and color, the larger and more transparent plates bringing the higher prices. Its uses are numerous. In microscopy and optics; for making bronze powder; instead of glass; and as lubricant mica is in demand. Even scrap mica, the debris of the mine, is worth from \$5 to \$25 a ton, being an ingredient in some varnishes and paints, and in the size for coating wall paper. As it is generally quarried by open face workings, its getting is inexpensive.