

the flume. It is very difficult to obtain information regarding this mine, which is owned by wealthy Americans, but it is popularly believed that there are few more profitable mines in the province. The showing of the Stenwinder in the near-by Fairview camp, owned by the New Fairview Corporation, Limited, is less satisfactory. This mine has a large body of low-grade free-milling quartz which by this time should have been made to yield fair returns on operations. For reasons, however, which need not be gone into here, even if space permitted, this has not been the case, but instead the company is heavily involved in debt, and it is more than probable that the holders of common stock will be done out of their investment altogether, either by the forfeiture of the mine on the part of the preferred shareholders, or by the new proposal to make another large issue of preference stock, whereby the ordinary stock would become absolutely valueless.

Probably a greater number of mining investments have been made in the Lardeau this year than in any other section of the province and in November two more transactions of importance were recorded. One of these involved the acquisition by Minnesota capitalists of eighteen claims on the Nettie L. Hill on working bond terms, the bondholders agreeing to expend no less a sum than \$100,000 in developing the properties by driving a tunnel for a distance of a mile and a half into the mountain with the expectation of opening up what is known locally as the Silver Cup lead. The claims thus acquired under this agreement included the Rattler, Rantler No. 1, Morning Star, Jumbo, Florence, Union Jack, Independence, the Gloucecap, Kootenay and May Queen groups and the Lardo. Since the Raven and Vancouver claims in the same vicinity were bonded to Pittsburgh investors on very similar terms, claim-owners in British Columbia now appear to realize generally that in order to dispose of their properties they must be prepared to meet prospective purchasers in a reasonable manner, and it is largely due to this change of view that it has been easier of late to interest capital in mining undertakings in the province.

In the free-milling quartz district of Camborne there has been much activity during the month. Before suspending operations for the time being the Oyster-Criterion made a clean-up of 175 oz., while at the Eva surface operations have been steadily carried on, the towers of the tramway destroyed by fire last summer having been replaced and other work done for the resumption of active mining operations at an early date. Preparations have also been made for the commencement of shipments from the Mammoth and Beatrice, and at other claims development work has been in steady progress.

Beyond recording regular and fairly substantial progress there is little to remark anent mining development in the Slocan during November. The mines in the neighborhood of Sandon are making ready for winter working. Conditions, however, are steadily improving, and although the lead output yet falls short

of previous achievements upon which the Silver-Lead Mines Association based its estimate to the Government, the mine development work done this year, stimulated by better markets, the higher price of silver and a demand for zinc, is bound to tell in the immediate future. In addition to the extensive work, now nearing completion on the Rambler-Cariboo, the Ruth recently has let a contract for a 600-foot tunnel. The Payne Company's zinc separator was leased during the month to the owners of the Lucky Jim mine, from which 5,000 tons of zinc ores will be sent. Apropos of this Mr. A. C. Garde, late manager of the Payne, is reported as having said: "For years past the mainstay of the Slocan has been its lead ore. Indeed so much has this been the case that when the owner of property in the Slocan ran into zinc, he usually closed his mine. A striking instance of this being the Lucky Jim at Bear Lake, which was opened some twelve years ago, ran into zinc and closed. Last year it was again opened and four men took out over a thousand tons of ore, running 54 per cent in zinc, which was shipped at a profit. Any ore which will run from 42 to 44 per cent zinc and upwards is payable even under present prices for freight and smelting, and any over 50 per cent can be advantageously shipped in the crude state." Last month shipments of zinc were made by two mines, the Payne and Ivanhoe, and within the last week the Ivanhoe made a further shipment of 200 tons. It has been announced meanwhile that the zinc plant now building at Rosebery will be in readiness for the commencement of operations in April next. Lead production is being maintained from some twenty-three Slocan mines. In the Slocan City Division some promising new discoveries of ore were made at the Ottawa, which is being extensively developed. A carload shipment was also made from the Kilo on Lemon Creek during the month, from which a return of \$64 in gold values was received. Ainsworth, which at one time promised exceptionally well, but except in the case of one mine, has made of late years no considerable silver-lead output, is again receiving attention, several claims in the district having been bonded within the past few weeks. Thus, Mr. C. Fernan, the engineer responsible for the erection of the Rosebury works, has acquired the Black Jack and Old Timer, said to show good zinc and silver values on Coffee Creek, and other transactions, including the bonding of the Grant, are also reported. The No. 1 mine, too, was recently leased and operations started, while the Black Diamond Tunnel Company expect to ship ore from the Highlander next month. The tunnel on the Black Diamond, which has reached a distance of 2,605 feet, gives a depth, by-the-way, of 1,500 feet on the lead—the greatest depth, it is stated, yet attained in any British Columbia mine.

Residents of Nelson have been much cheered by the relatively satisfactory report of the Hall Mining & Smelting Company. The profit of approximately \$30,000 is not large on the capital represented—which, however, is excessive and should certainly be reduced to admit of the possibility of a reasonable return