

Hall and their associates have resumed work on the Noonday and Christmas. These claims contain a strata of gold-bearing, free-milling quartz of high grade. Ed. Dupont, of Dupont & Carning (another of our enterprising local mining men), has bonded the Laurier, for \$8,000, one-eighth of one per cent. being paid cash. This is virtually a working bond, but, as the Laurier has a rich surface showing, it is likely to prove a good investment.

On the Glen Iron mines which are situated a few miles west of town there are twelve men engaged under the management of J. Fleetwood Wells. These mines are the property of the Glen Iron Mining Company, Limited Liability, of this place, and have been in full blast for upwards of nine months. Under the present management the method of operations has been changed from that of an aerial tramway to connect with the C. P. R. track to a tunnel drawn on the level of the track, thus increasing both the delivering facilities and reducing operating expenses. These mines have been producing seven carloads every fortnight, or an average of 75 to 80 tons of ore weekly, supplying both the smelters of Everett and Tacoma, Wash. So you see that we have one mine at least on a paying basis, shipping from three to four cars every week, others will without doubt in course of reasonable time be added to the list.

JOHN F. SMITH.

The Tariff.

AS there can be no change in the tariff until the next session of Parliament, there is nothing for us to do in the meantime, but to get along the best way possible under its provisions in regard to mining machinery. But we are of the opinion that the mining industry in British Columbia, at least, did not receive sufficient consideration when the twenty-five per cent. schedule was passed. As we have before stated, on several occasions, we are not seeking to discriminate against any one particular class or, indeed, against manufacturers, as a whole. We are simply desirous of securing justice for the mine owners in order to permit them to develop and operate their mines to the best advantage.

As there will certainly be a further revision of the tariff at the next session of Parliament we would suggest to the Government the advisability of appointing a commission of really practical men. This commission need not consist of more than three members, but they should be men of sterling quality, able to give a thoroughly unbiassed opinion on the subject they will be called upon to investigate. This committee should spend at least two months in the mining camps of British Columbia, obtaining the unvarnished truth whether a duty on mining machinery retards or affects, injuriously, the mining industry. They will be able to secure a lot of information from the mine owners and substantial mining men throughout the country which will be invaluable to the Government. In fact we would not limit the scope of their enquiry, although, of course, their main object would be as to the tariff.

Let the Government appoint this commission this summer, so that the members may be able to get to work this fall, and by the time the tariff question comes up again in Parliament, Mr. Fielding will be in a position to adjust it, so far as concerns mining machinery, in a manner that will do justice to all parties.

Vernon Notes.

EVERYTHING in the shape of mining has been at a standstill lately owing to the recent heavy rains, which, although they have saved the crops of the district giving promise of a splendid harvest this year, have stopped the work of development, most of the shafts being full of water and the work will probably not be proceeded with for another fortnight, until the surface water has drained off a little more.

On the Morning Glory the foundations are being prepared for the stamp mill that is expected daily.

On the Denzy, a property adjoining the Sarah claim, a hundred-foot tunnel is being driven in by the proprietors, Kempson & Jones, and this tunnel will cut several stringers, which on the surface are very rich in free gold.

Mr. Craven has stopped work on the Blue Jay owing to the presence of foul air and water in the shaft. The property however is looking as well as it ever did.

The Silver Star is also stopped from similar causes. A road has been blazed to the mine and work will be commenced on it directly.

Work on the Bon Diable has been steadily proceeded with.

This has the appearance of being one of the best properties in the district. The ledge is a very large one and is heavily impregnated with iron sulphurets which carry well in gold.

We have been shown some very fine specimens of galena from camp Hewitt. The ledge is a contact on lime. From Six Mile Creek some very promising samples of ore have been brought in which have assayed as high as \$15.

The two claims referred to are the Grand Times and the Hidden Treasure recorded by Mr. J. G. Banks.

The Rossland and Revelstoke parties have been prospecting in the vicinity of Cherry Creek where they have made several locations.

T. ADRIAN MEYER.

Our Mineral Wealth at Rossland.

AT the recent banquet in Rossland, Mr. Carlisle, Provincial Mineralogist, spoke as follows in response to the toast, "The Mineral Resources of Our Province":

"Statistics are generally dry and uninteresting, but in the last report of the Minister of Mines I endeavoured to gather together for the first time and arrange all data available concerning the output of mines in this province. These tables, I believe, have been widely copied, and I hope they have proved of some little service to many who are turning their eyes towards this province and are seeking information. A special endeavour was made to give due prominence to the production of the lode mines, first to show that this class of mining is of recent birth in this country, that it is really just getting started, and secondly to show the rapid advance since the nearly knock-out blow given by the tumble in the price of silver in 1893.

"In 1887 we find that by lode mining only about \$17,000 was produced; in 1893, \$300,000; in 1894 about \$800,000; while in 1895 there was a sudden increase of \$2,400,000; while 1896 saw this nearly doubled by a production of \$4,250,000.

"For 1897 this rapid increase will be maintained as already, from the statements made from customs and shipping returns given by the newspapers, which I know to be very close to the actual smelter returns,