

On the whole the opinion of this authority is favourable to the district, although it will be July before really definite information can be gathered to justify an unqualified expression as to future possibilities.

ATLIN.

In the Atlin district recently some important amalgamations of interests have taken place, and these will result in work of a larger extent, without the friction which has often militated against successful operations. The consolidation of the hydraulic interests on Spruce Creek has been consummated, and the Spruce Creek Power Company is the name under which the new concern will develop the valuable properties on this creek. The interests on McKee Creek have also been brought together, the Atlin Mining Company selling out to the Hamshaws and their Brooklyn associates. The claims on McKee Creek have been successfully worked for the past five years. The Deek and Stevendyke interests on Pine Creek have also been consolidated under one management. This is the creek on which placer gold was discovered in Atlin, and, strange enough, the first hole was sunk in gravel, than which there has been none richer taken out in the district.

CARIBOO.

It is reported that very promising indications of the occurrence of mineral oil have been found in the Beaver Lake Valley, on the road to Quesnel Forks in the Cariboo district, and specimens of shale smelling strongly of petroleum as well as samples of crude oil itself have been brought to the Coast for analyses. The inaccessibility of the district, however, considerably discounts any importance attaching to the discovery even if verified. Meanwhile at Steveston, on the Fraser River near Vancouver, boring operations for oil have been commenced under expert direction.

KAMLOOPS.

The Ashanti Lands, Ltd., an English company, has decided to exercise its option with the British Columbia Exploration Company, securing an interest in the Iron Mask and other claims at Kamloops and on the Coast. A new company has been successfully floated called the Kamloops Mines, Ltd., with a capital of \$750,000. The original syndicate expended \$215,000 in acquiring and developing the properties.

REVELSTOKE.

The New Imperial Mines, Limited, has just been formed with a capital of \$100,000 to acquire the Imperial group of claims on the Illecillewaet River, twenty miles north of Albert Canyon. The claims have been partially developed and the ore according to smelter tests is of good grade, averaging from \$100 to \$150 per ton in gold, silver and copper. The silver contents are especially high.

LARDEAU.

Another ten stamps is to be added to the Oyster-Criterion mill at Camborne. The Great Northern Mines also propose, it is stated, to install a 40-stamp mill at the Lucky Jack. The tunnel on the latter claim is now in 320 feet.

Several sales of mining property have been made recently in the Lardeau district, the latest being of a group at Poplar Creek—the Crown King and Golden West, adjoining the Swede group. It is said the purchase price was \$35,000.

At last month's run of the Oyster-Criterion mill at Camborne, 1,160 tons of ore were crushed yielding 300 ounces of gold. The cost of mining and milling was \$2.40 per ton.

The Silver Dollar group of four claims in this district has been sold to the Elwood Tinworkers' Gold Mining Company of Indiana. The property has been largely developed by surface stripping. It is announced also that operations will be resumed early in April at the Nettie L. and Silver Cup mines near Ferguson, the new combination silver mill being now practically completed. Development work is proceeding steadily at several claims in the Poplar Creek section, and last week pumping and other machinery was purchased for the Handy Company's mine.

SLOCAN.

Speaking of the situation in the Slocan, Mr. Buchanan, Government administrator of the lead bounty, recently expressed the opinion that the outlook was most encouraging, nearly every important mine being now in operation.

At a meeting in March of the Silver-Lead Miners' Association the following important resolution was unanimously agreed to: "That the Association do endorse the proposal of the low grade miners, whereby the Government is to be requested to extend the benefits of the Bounty Act to a limited amount of ore to be exported and smelted abroad; provided that such extension shall not prejudice the payment of the full bounty on ores smelted in Canada. Provided, further, that lead ores sold and smelted in Canada during the period of such proposed extension of bounty, the maximum freight and treatment rate shall not exceed \$15 per ton as per scale now in force; that the marketing charge shall not exceed \$20 per 2,000 lbs. of lead, as at present; and that the limit on zinc shall not decrease from ten per cent. and the penalty on the excess shall not exceed 50 cents per unit. And that the Executive Council shall be and are hereby authorized to confer with the smelters and aid the producers of low-grade ore in securing their co-operation, with full power to act for the Association as a whole." At this meeting Mr. Blackstock, of Toronto, representing the St. Eugene mine, pointed out that while he desired to protect and foster the Canadian smelting industry to the greatest extent possible, the best rate offered the St. Eugene by the Trail smelter was \$15.50 for freight and treatment and \$20 for marketing, and this was only assured for six months, which made the offer prohibitive. Certain European plants had offered to accept these ores at a much lower rate, and unless the bounty regulations were amended to permit of the exportation of these ores the St. Eugene and similar mines must remain closed down. The proposed extension of the bounty to exported ores should, he thought, be limited and only granted from time to time and it should not prevent the home treated ores from earning the bounty.

Evidently silver-lead mine owners in the Slocan and East Kootenay are not inclined to take too seriously the assurance made by Mr. Fernan, the Belgian metallurgist, that he is prepared to build a lead smelter in British Columbia and contract for ore on the basis of \$10 for freight and treatment charges—certainly a very low quotation. At any rate at the meeting of the Lead Mines' Association last week no reference was made to Mr. Fernan's proposals, and Mr. Fernan, in a statement published in a local newspaper resents rather strongly the manner in which he has been ignored, and expresses the opinion that lead ores sent out of the country to foreign smelters should not be entitled to the Government bounty. To quote Mr. Fernan: "The works I propose to establish should be in operation in about six to eight months' time. They will not be on as large a scale as would have been possible had an agreement been reached with the producers whom I approached, and if the lead ores are sent out of the country it would prevent the extension of these and other works and absolutely prohibit the local smelting industry ever becoming an important industry. I have not the slightest doubt that any amount of ore that may be produced in the Kootenays can be reduced on the ground, and feel very strongly that if it is allowed to go out of the country it will do immense harm to the district. So far as I am personally concerned, I cannot understand the silence that has been observed concerning my proposals on the part of those to whom they have been made."

SLOCAN CITY.

Reports from the Slocan City Division are most satisfactory. The necessary money has been secured by the Company owning the Howard Fraction claim to pay off all liabilities and afford a sufficient sum in addition to continue operations. The working force on the Fisher Maiden has been increased; the lessees of the Black Prince have encountered some exceptionally high-grade ore, while excellent returns have been obtained from the Ottawa shipments, the ore from the last carloads sent out averaging 250 ozs. silver per ton.