

MINING MATTERS.

BOUNDARY CREEK NEWS.

A correspondent at Greenwood writes The Commercial as follows.

The Granby smelter, at Grand Forks, is now operating one 300-ton furnace and has another ready to "blow in" as soon as the new air compressor shall have been started at the Knob Hill mine—probably next week. The Greenwood smelter is well on towards completion, only now awaiting arrival of its plant and installation of more powerful machinery at the Mother Lode mine, smelter and mine being both owned by the British Columbia Copper Co., of New York. Plans for foundations and buildings for the Standard Pyritic Smelting Co.'s smelter, to be erected near Greenwood, are expected to arrive next week, and immediately after their receipt the work of construction will be proceeded with. Between 400 and 500 tons of ore are being sent out by district mines daily and to this will shortly be added 300 tons more per diem from the Old Ironsides and Knob Hill mines. The Mother Lode mine this week commenced to send ore to the Greenwood smelter, so there should not be any exaggeration in an estimate of a total tonnage of at least 1,000 tons a day by the end of the current year. That the district bids fair to be a very important one is exemplified by the fact that the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. has spent so much money in it on railway construction. W. R. MacInnes, of Winnipeg, and the district freight agent, F. W. Peters, of Nelson, B. C., are both here at present, on freight business, and the president of the company is expected to arrive next week. Among others in the district at present are representatives of both Bradstreets and R. G. Dun & Co. But there, if I continue, this sort of brevity will weary you, so I will conclude by forecasting for Manitoba a good market in the Boundary district, and for Winnipeg wholesale houses many desirable customers, after the district shall have recovered from the temporary depression that is now being experienced. Your go-a-head city will next year cultivate much closer commercial relations with the Boundary, which is going to be one of the most important mining sections in the whole Dominion and, in the language of the prophets, "Don't you forget it."

B. C. MINING NOTES.

The Whitewater mine, near Kaslo, shipped 231 tons of ore last week.

Work has been commenced on the Juno property on Morning mountain, Nelson.

Work is being resumed on the Granite mine, Nelson district, by the Duncan Mines Company.

A new roasting furnace of the latest improved design is to be installed at once at the Hall Mines' smelter at Nelson.

There are 260 men employed at the St. Eugene mine, Moyle, who received for the month of August last wages amounting to \$27,323.

Private cables say there is great excitement in London over the Le Roi stock, which is selling at £87½ per share, representing a total value of \$9,000,000.

Sandon ore shipments last week were: Payne, 264; Last Chance, 97; Ruth, 17; Slocan Star, 210; Trade Dollar, 20, total, 518 tons.

The Cariboo Mining and Milling Co. are installing a lot of additional machinery on their property in camp McKinney and will also largely increase their present force of men.

The B. C. mine, situated in Summit camp, is now sending about 70 tons of ore per diem to the C. P. R. smelter at Trail, B. C. The total output of this mine to date is about 10,000 tons.

At the annual meeting of shareholders in the Brandon and Golden Crown Mining Co., lately held in Greenwood, it was stated that the total quantity of ore shipped from the mine to date was 1876 tons. Much of the stock in this company is held in Brandon and other parts of Manitoba.

The following list shows the amount of ore shipped by mining properties tributary to Slocan lake: Bosun, 800; Hartney, 20; Capella, 7; Emily Edith, 20; Hewett, 70; Vancouver, 100; Wakefield, (concentrates) 680; Galena, Mines, 20; Enterprise, 920; Neepawa, 7; Arlington, 820; Black Prince, 60;

Kilo, 20; Two Friends, 20; making a total of 3,004 tons.

New machinery will shortly be added to the plant of the Silver King mine, near Nelson.

The Mother Lode mine commenced on September 28 to send ore to the company's smelter at Greenwood. The largest plant yet obtained for any mine in the Boundary district is now being installed at the Mother Lode. There is a very large body of ore opened up in the mine at both the 200 and 300-foot levels. A commencement will be made early in October to deepen the main shaft, now down 325 feet, to 500 feet.

Word has been brought from the Metropolitan group in the Lardeau of a rich strike. Two large veins have been located, one ranging from six inches to three feet in width of solid ore, which has been exposed on the surface for about 100 feet, and the other from eight to eighteen inches wide being also of clean galena and gray copper. Between these are stringers from two to eight inches in width. Assays have given very high values.

Ore shipments from the Knob Hill and Old Ironsides mines, in Greenwood camp, for the greater part of September, averaged about 300 tons per day. It is intended to double this output early in October. To facilitate ore-stopping operations a 10-drill Rand air compressor is now being installed at the Knob Hill mine, which has heretofore obtained power from the Old Ironsides' compressor. There are very large ore reserves in both of these mines, which together employ some 170 men, and will shortly increase the number to at least 250. The Granby smelter, at Grand Forks, is now operating one 300-ton furnace and will start a second one of similar capacity immediately after these mines increase their output as above indicated.

N. W. ONTARIO MINING.

A large deposit of iron ore has been found on Lake Nipigon near Sturgeon river. The ore is hematite banded with jasper and the vein, which is 100 feet wide, is known to extend for several miles.

Growth of Tobacco Industry.

The history of the growth of the tobacco industry in Canada and the United States has much of interest as showing the increased demand for this weed at the present time compared with a century or more ago.

Tobacco was grown in this country long before the arrival of the first white men. It quickly attracted the attention of the colonists, especially of those living in Maryland and Virginia, and in the New England states it was grown in considerable quantities as far back as 1640, although in this latter section its cultivation was soon abandoned and was only resumed during the present century. In 1732 tobacco was made legal tender "a Maryland at the rate of 1d. a pound for all debts, including customs fees, and for a time was used in the payment of ministers stipends and the salaries of state officers. It has only been during the present century that classes of tobacco other than the dark export types of Virginia and the light pipe-smoking tobacco of Maryland were grown. The demand for colored tobaccos for export became so great that in 1812 artificial heat was resorted to for curing, and in this way the spangled or piebald tobacco of Virginia was developed. Up to 1823 wood fires were used entirely for curing, but about that time flues and charcoal and began to be adopted and by 1865 flues were used entirely in the production of the bright yellow varieties.

In Maryland the tobacco yield is to-day little in excess of what it was in 1732, when it was made legal tender, amounting then to 30,000 hogsheads. In other States, however, the increase has been very great.

In 1783 considerable quantities of tobacco were produced in Northern Kentucky and portions of Ohio, extending during the following twenty-five years to take southern portions of Kentucky and to Tennessee, where it soon became a prominent industry.

The lemon-yellow tobacco, so much in favor for plug fillers and wrappers, was first produced in 1832 in North Carolina. After the civil war the demand for this variety increased largely and the cultivation soon extended throughout North and South Carolina,

Virginia and Eastern Tennessee. In 1879, 57,000 acres were planted with this tobacco, yielding 26,020,000 lbs.

In 1659 the cultivation of tobacco was commenced in Pennsylvania, but, as in the New England States, it did not become of commercial importance until the present century. By 1879 the yield had reached 36,000,000 pounds, which placed Pennsylvania third on the list of the tobacco growing States. Tobacco was introduced into New York State in 1845 and its cultivation soon became an important and profitable industry. Wisconsin grew its first tobacco in 1850, yielding that year 1,200 lbs., which had increased in 1889 to 19,123,000 lbs. Florida produced its first crop of tobacco about 1829.

During the early part of this century the Connecticut tobacco began to come into use for the manufacture of cigars and a factory for this purpose was started in 1810, about the time when Cuban cigars first began to make their appearance in any appreciable quantities in this country. The manufacture of cigars in the United States has shown a very marked growth during the latter part of the present century, increasing from 190,000,000 in 1860 to 4,518,000,000 in 1892.

Cigarettes were first manufactured about 1861. They did not come into general favor at first but of late years the demand has rapidly increased.

A great increase is noticeable in the cultivation of tobacco in Canada during the last few years. It was thought for a long time that Canadian tobacco would never become a factor of any importance in the trade, but it has now been conclusively proven that the Canadian farmer can grow tobacco quite as good for plug smoking and chewing as that produced in any of the states of the Union. The number of factories in Canada manufacturing home grown tobacco has increased since 1896 from 10 to 27, and the number of cigar factories using Canadian tobacco has increased during the same period from 2 to 15. It has been found to be impossible, however, to grow a satisfactory wrapper, although it is claimed that the Canadian sample is as good as that grown in any of the states of the south, Virginia excepted. The manufacturers, therefore, both in Canada and the United States use the Virginia wrapper very largely, the filling being of home grown tobacco. This is not done with the intention of defrauding the consumer, as the fact that the foreign wrapper is used is not in the least kept secret, but the public prefer the appearance of the lemon-yellow tobacco as a wrapper and the filling speaks for itself. Heretofore the cultivation of tobacco in this country has been confined to Eastern Canada, but during the last few years it has received the attention from farmers in a portion of the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, and has given very encouraging returns. Canadian grown tobacco is now meeting with much favor as the following facts show. In 1895 only 5.6 per cent. of the tobacco consumed in Canada was home-grown while in the fiscal year 1898-9 the percentage had risen to 26.2, and for the first six months of 1899-1900 36.2 per cent. of the total consumption was home grown. Many Canadians seem to regard the home-grown tobacco as little better than "cabbage leaf," but this is doubtless due to ignorance and to the too common habit of looking upon local productions of all kinds as being inferior to the imported articles until their merits have been conclusively established. It is asserted by expert buyers that the Canadian tobacco is quite as good as that produced in the United States.

Seneca Root.

The Minneapolis correspondent of the Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter reviews the season's root trade as follows:

In regard to the seneca situation, would say that during the spring root was received very fast. Probably 100,000 lbs. came in at the three leading markets, viz. Minneapolis, St. Paul and Winnipeg. Dealers became frightened and cut prices unwarrantedly and rapidly and prices declined from 40c to 23c in two months. Merchants and diggers noted the heavy decline on account of the high prices to start with and stopped handling it, and there have been scarcely any receipts for the past six weeks. Cannot hear that much has been dug. The weather was very hot and vegetation dried up so that it could not be found readily, and

since the hot weather it turned in and rained in the seneca country until the ground is so wet that it cannot be dug. It is thought about all the old seneca root went into consumption by spring, and up to date it looks as though there would not be half enough dug this year to supply the demand. Orders are very plentiful, the prices have reacted, and now no large amount can be bought under 35c and some dealers are holding for 40c. Three dealers hold the stock, and it is not thought that they have a very large quantity, as they are anxious to increase their holdings.

C. P. R. Construction.

The most interesting construction work undertaken for some time by the C. P. R. is that of the extension of the West Selkirk branch to Lake Winnipeg. No time is being lost in completing the grading of this line to have it ready for spring. At present there are four gangs at work grading and making good progress despite unfavorable weather. The men are spread out over 10 or 12 miles of the surveyed line. The country is practically free of any engineering difficulties and the line will open up a splendid piece of agricultural district north of Candeboye. This line should be the most popular of the Winnipeg district next summer.

The company are also lifting the rails and improving the grade on the West Selkirk line to have the entire run made an easy one. Heavy rails will replace the lighter ones to insure comfort with speed, and the expenditure on other improvements will be liberal.

Work on the Pipestone extension still continues, the tracklaying gang being now one mile beyond Carlyle, which leaves about six or seven miles still to be laid to bring the extension to its 1900 terminus-Arcola.

The Lac du Bonnet line is being pushed on, but the engineering difficulties here are numerous and the work difficult. About 14 or 15 miles have been completed from Molson.

Nothing is being done at the McGregor-Varcoe line at present, but the tracklaying gangs will move there as soon as other branches have been completed.

The customs receipts of the Dominion for the first quarter of the fiscal year up to the 30th of September amount to \$7,516,170, as against \$7,197,203 for the same period as last year, a gain of \$348,966.

Freight cars have become very scarce on western United States roads lately, and trade is suffering in consequence. It is said that there are 20,000 cars loaded with export freight now at the Atlantic seaboard. The heavy export movement accounts for the shortage.

Principal Grant, in his charming style, opens the October Canadian Magazine with an article on "The Jason of Alaska." This deals with the work which is being done by F. H. Clergue in building pulp mills, railroads, canals and other works in Northern Ontario, the estimated cost of which is over fifteen million dollars. There are two instalments of W. A. Fraser's new animal story, entitled "Mooswa," which is the Cree name for moose. This is a story for old and young, in which the leading Canadian animal talk in such a way as to reveal their habits and peculiarities. Agnes Deans Cameron, a British Columbia teacher, tells some plain and wholesome truths in a brisk article, entitled "Parent and Teacher." C. W. Nash writes of wild geese and ducks, and Reginald Gourlay gives some information about shooting snipe. R. L. Richardson, M. P., continues his railway articles, and M. E. Nichols gives "A Forecast of the General Elections." There are the usual stories and departments, making up an excellent number.

"Oh, yes, I have always kept the first dollar I ever made. It was such a bad piece of work that I couldn't spend it!" And the counterfeiter laughed heartily at the recollection.—Detroit Journal.

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