

or amalgamated with, the present Mine Owners' Association. There can be no doubt that a general association modeled after the Californian Association would be of great benefit to the mining industry of the Province. But it may be well to delay the project until the present Mine Owners' Association is willing to be absorbed into such a body, or until it has itself gained such influence and conferred such benefits on the mining industry that it has absorbed into its own ranks all those engaged in the industry of mining in the Province.

A newspaper report places the output of the Atlin district at 600 ounces of gold in excess of last year, and at the same time gives a conservative estimate of the value of the output as \$300,000. The value of the output from the district last year is estimated in the Minister of Mines Report at \$450,000, \$150,000 more than the estimate made for this year. It would appear that more gold has paid royalty this year than last, because more stringent measures were adopted to collect the tax. But whether there has been in reality an increased or diminished production is hard to say. Fewer miners have been at work although the per capita production certainly, is understood to have been more satisfactory. Until mining operations in Atlin are conducted on a larger scale than at present, working on most of the creeks must continue to be restricted by a scarcity of water except during the period of the spring freshets, lasting for perhaps six weeks or two months in a season. This, notwithstanding, evidence goes to show that under ordinarily favourable conditions, the ground is sufficiently rich to pay handsome returns on moderate investments of capital in hydraulic undertakings in this field.

We are informed that an American syndicate, which secured a thirty-day option on the Van Anda mines and smelter at Texada Island, has, after investigation, decided to exercise the right to purchase and the property has consequently, for a second time, changed ownership. In the course of the recent tests a large chute of exceptionally high-grade ore was encountered in the Cornell mine, and altogether the prospects as regards the successful operation of the property under new auspices are exceedingly bright. We are glad to note that the services of Mr. Thos. Kiddie, a mining engineer and metallurgist of admitted ability and experience, as general superintendent, are to be retained. Meanwhile the acquisition this year by American capital of the Britannia and Van Anda mines, probably the two most important copper properties in the British Columbia coast districts, is particularly significant in view of the present situation of the copper market in the United States.

A development of railway enterprise in the Yukon is promised for next year, which seems not only entirely feasible but should have a most beneficial effect in light-

ening the cost of mining on the various creeks. The proposal is to connect the mines with Dawson by an electric railway, which will supersede the present extensive system of roads and trails. If the project is carried through successfully it should have an important bearing on reducing the cost of working ground in the Yukon, and be of considerable assistance in solving the all-important problem on which the future of the Klondike depends. It is meanwhile not generally known that the present cost of transport from Dawson to the mines, a distance of probably twenty or thirty miles, is nearly if not quite as great as that of carriage from Victoria to Dawson, a distance of fifteen hundred miles, notwithstanding the high rates charged over the White Pass railway.

In reference to Mr. Labarthe's resignation from the management of the Northport smelter, a well-informed Rossland correspondent, who has no connection whatever with the Le Roi companies and regarded as a more or less disinterested spectator of the dispute now in progress between employers and men in that district, writes :

If it is necessary for you to make any reference to the Northport affair, I hope you will not be guided by either street reports or incorrect press dispatches. The union, which has been practically defeated, has been looking for some opportunity to claim a victory, or some encouragement in order to keep their men out on strike. When they found that men were going from Trail to Northport, they used every means of persuading them not to go. Failing in this a number of them met the Trail men at the train and gave them a royal reception, for the purpose of carrying out the rest of their play, which was to notify non-union men of the fact that they (the Trail men) were either union men or union sympathisers. The result of this was that the union men working in the smelter (supposed to be non-union men) worked up such a feeling that had Mr. Labarthe accepted the position it would have precipitated a second strike at Northport. Under these circumstances he very wisely decided not to accept the position.

The union have been so persistent in this play, and have carried it out so ingeniously, that responsible people and merchants in Rossland are still thoroughly convinced that the men from Trail were practically union men.

Of happenings in the Ymir district during the month our special correspondent writes :

An important deal has just been consummated in the acquisition of the well-known Union Jack group, situated on Porcupine creek, near Ymir, by a syndicate of Cincinnati capitalists. A company has been incorporated under the name of the Active Gold Mining Co. of British Columbia, with a capitalisation of \$1,500,000 and development work has been already started. The property, which consists of five claims, is traversed by four distinct veins of free-milling ore, varying in width from six to sixteen feet, and assaying from a few dollars in gold to \$29.

The London and British Columbia Goldfields have secured a bond on a rich free-milling vein in the neighbourhood of the Yellowstone mine near Salmo. This vein was uncovered less than four weeks since and practically no development work was done upon it. The surface indications, however, are so exceptionally favourable, that a large price is justified, and the figure at which the bond was taken is reported to be \$35,000 with a preliminary five per cent. cash payment. A force of men have already been sent up to commence operations. Meanwhile the ground in the neighbourhood of the rich vein has been the scene of some small excitement and has already been extensively staked. The main vein averages about six feet in width, and visible gold appears to be freely and evenly disseminated throughout that width.

Arrangements have now been completed whereby funds have been secured for the erection of a stamp mill on the Wilcox mine, seven miles from Ymir. A large quantity of rich ore has been stoped, some of which is now being prepared for shipment to the smelter.

The report of the Queen Bess Proprietary, Ltd., foretells a reconstruction without a possibility of avoidance.