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CANADA WEST.

Ains worth

Rushing Rossland — A Three Year Old Town.

Some Bonanza Gold Mines and Some Other Mines-An Ambitious Corporation.

The Smelter Question-Shall Canada or the United States do the Refining ?- The Beginning of the Le Roi-The Pioneer Promoter - Eastern Men in the Gold Fields.

(No. 14.) Calgary, 27th July, 1897.—British Columbia appears to be almost a continuous gold field. There are, of course large spaces between some of the mining districts, but the districts are so many that it would take an active traveller about a year to visit all the camps, look at them and go away. The Kootenay country may be rough-ly spoken of as included in the dis-trict south of the C. P. R. and west of the Rocky mountains. One or two corners penetrate north of the raffway, but the greater part of it may be described as tying between the raliway and the United States border, and between the Rocky mountains and the territories. But if you commence at the Pacific, still keeping south of the railway, you have first placer mining on the Fraser river. Then you have the Okanagon dis-trict, which at the south is called the boundary district. Still further east on the Columbia river, is the Trail district, which includes Ross North of that is the Lardeau region while further east still and a little north of Trail is the Slocan region. Still further east is that vast country lying towards the base of the Rocky mountains called aEst Kootenay. gary.

One thing which surprises the traveller wino expects to rough it in visiting the Kootenay camps is the ease and comfort with which he will get gines stored in it were totally or partially destroyed. About the same anywhere. Nature in placing the gold and silver in these fields, placed also the means to reach them. If you the old town. It is perhaps not necescoming east from Vancou and wish to go to Okan-n and the Boundary, you the train south at Ska-is Junction. The C. P. R. has ver agon no connection with either of these evenits. mous Junction. built a line 50 miles to the lake, and has placed a fine steamer on that water. The Boundary mines are reached from the couthern end of this lake, and some of them require a the afternoon arrives at Trail at noon delightful one, the lake being one of units lake, and some of them require a considerable travel by rail or stage. If you seek the West Kootenay fields, where are found now most of the sensational mines, you come east to Revelstoke station. Thence south-ward the C. P. R. has built a branch 28 miles to Arrowhead. You can the characteristic waters of the country, all length and no particular mountains about you, with the in able snow upon them, and the huge timber which pervades the coast is not entirely absent. The water is clear, and the scenery so varied that one never tires. In the morning you pass Robson, which, as mentioned es to Anrowhead. You can if there if for like and go by C. boat to Thompson in the Lar-P.R. deau district. But if you are going on to Trail or Rossiand you will take the C. P. R. boat at Arrow end for a 200

don. The i it turns south, passing the Ains worth mining camp, sweeps about to the west, and empties and the Columbia. The Columbia itself rises not far from the source of the Kootenay, but while the latter pushes then the other.

south, the Columbia runs north, cross-ing the C. P. R. and going away north till it strikes the rich, gold deposits at This process makes the road pretty thill it strikes the rich gold deposits at Big Bond, whence it sweeps again south, crossing the C. P. R., affording an outlet to the Lardeau district, passing Rossland and the other gold fields and making its way south into United States territory, where it empties into the Pacific. The Col-umbia is loyal to the place of its birth, for after passing into foreign territory it becomes unruly, and ceases to be navigable. By this down hill, this is not a serious draw Mr. Heinze had a project to ack uild a railway from Trail to Okanagan, but he failed to get his charter the last session. He has not, however, given up the scheme, and I am rather clined to think that the C. P. R. are nterested in it with him. There is a ceases to be navigable. By this happy thought it preserves to Canada a transportation business that would otherwise go to the United States, provincial subsidy offered for this road which the C. P. R., in its own ame, cannot get, but it is easily possible that after Mr. Heinze gets the subsidy and builds the road it may be We left Revelstoke on a fine afterfound a part of the C. P. R. system. noon, and took the train for Arrow head, following down the Columbia

In Vancouver I attended a meeting which here does not furnish very called to welcome Mr. Maxwell, M. P., nome from Ottawa. It did not strike good sailing. Revelstoke itself, it might be observed, is a rapidly growme as an enthusiastic meeting, and mines about Rossland, but only three ing town which has great expectaattendance was considerably ons. The Canadian Pacific is mak maller than one near by, which was ing a new town a little way from the addressed from a wagon by a patent one is paying dividends to the owner, old one, which is a habit the comedicine fakir. But Mr. Maxwell depany has, whereby it makes a conounced Mr. Heinze, suggesting that enlient sum of money in the sale of own lots. Revelstoke, for a time at he was a monopolist, and a wizard of inance, and various other disreputleast, will be the point of departure for the principal gold fields, and it expects to be the distributing centre ngs. However that may be, it able thin centzed in this district that the Cootenay owes a great deal to Mr. the Big Bend district. This Big Heinze. He came there with capital Bend district, it may be observed, was once a great placer mining place at his back, when no one else would risk his money. Before much ore had and had a town of several thousand en taken from the Rossland gold people. When the golden sand was fields he took the risk of spending half all used up the people came away. a million dollars on a smelter, which and the place was left entirely desovould have been useless if the mines late. Now people are going back for quartz mining, and the more hopeful had failed. When the owners of the Le Roi and other mines had not the expect that the former glory of the courage to construct a railway to their place will be outshone. The C. P. R. is building a large hotel here, and it may be of interst to state that it will croperty, Heinze built his wonderful ountain climbing road. If he is making money now, he deserves to make be managed by H. A. Perley, who has been trained in the C. P. R. hotel sermuch more than the men who waited for him to show the way. Heinze's vice at the Glacier house, and who is company invested another half million now the proprietor of the Alberta iollars in the purchase of a gold mine hotel, which is the best inn in Calcalled the Columbia and Kootenay, which is situated near Rossland. He is developing this property at a con-To go a little ahead of the story, siderable expense, and expects to make there was a rather lively evening it one of the best in the country. He when we reached Revelstoke on our way home. The C. P. R. round house may do so or he may lose his half But that is a part of the was burned that night, and four enmillion.

Rossland mine story, and Rossland is worth a letter all by itself.

hour two men were stabbed, one very Among the eastern men discovered at Trail was H. Boomer. formerly of Amherst Point, and now one of the firm of Winters, and sary to state that the arrival of the mber of parliament for Pictou had Parsons & Boomer, railway contrac-tors. They had been building a railway for Heinze from Trail to Robson, and a few days later we came up in the same boat with Boomer and a barge load of railway plant en route the next day. The passage is a very for Calgary and the Crow's Nest, where the firm is going to work. In In smelting works Mr. Blair, a son of the minister of railways, is engaged, while Col. Domville has a son in the employment of the Columbian & Kootenay mines. S. D. SCOTT.

(No. 15.) Winnipes, Aug. 4, 1897.—The most populous town in the Kootenny coun-try and probably the third in popula-tion in the province is Rossland, a pass Robson, which, as mentioned above, is the point where the Nelson ines make connection with the Colthree year old city. It clams a r

said to be less than six. It is a great railroad. It climbs up the hill by a system of switch backs, running fre-quently three times in parallel routes, first one end of the train ahead and censed noted, and that each hotel shall have a certain number of rooms and beds. Keeping salooon appears to be an attractive and profitable business in these towns, and people are so willing to do it that they take long, but still left it a three or four per cent. grade. However, as the bulk of the business is in carrying freight

mysterious way to tenants. But however this may be, as you pass along the main street you observe that at least half the houses have hotel signs. Honorable T. M. Daly, who is one of the license commissioners, says there are forty licensed hotels in the town. I would have thought there were at least seventy.

About the first thing that a stranger feels like asking when he sees this new town with its white unpainted houses, with the freshness of the saw mill on them, and notices the cost that has been incurred in bringing it to this condition, is, who pays all the There are a great number of bills? or four that are producing ore for shipment. Of these three or four, only unless we count Mr. Heinze's mine, the Columbia and Kootenay, some three or four miles away. There are

perhaps six mines in the place which could pay dividends now if the owners were anxious to do it. But the proprietors are pushing on the work of development, and only shipping enough to pay their bills as they go along. Four or five of these mines together employ perhaps four hundred men. The other mines scattered about the place have each anywhere from one man to twenty-five men working about them.

The best known mine at Rossland and in fact in all the country around. is the Le Roi. This mine has paid in dividends over \$400,000, at the rate of \$25,000 a month. A short time ago it begin to pay \$50,000 a month, and will no doubt be able to keep that up, or by an increase of the force, to double it. Whether the owners shall consider it worth while to increase their force remains to be seen. Their mine is like a bank. The more they withdraw, the less there will be left, and it is a question of ways and means whether it will be better to take it out fast or slow. The business manager told us that they had pushed one slope in five hundred feet, and another one six hundred feet, that they had opened up so much ore that they were safe in saving that a million and a half dollars worth was in they sight. So far as they knew, could continue to get gold by following the seam down as deep as mining could be made to pay. "The day before we were there they had hoisted 420 tons of ore. Three hundred tons were sent to Trail to be smelted. The proceeds of this three hundred tons

charge of \$11 a ton is paid for transportation to Trail and for smelting ex-penses. This would leave over \$3,500 as the net proceeds from the product of the day, from which would be de-ducted the cost of imining. After these other expenses are paid there remains enough to give nearly \$2,000 a day in dividends, and to provide for the enlargement and development of ducted the cost of imining. After these other expenses are paid there remains enough to give nearly \$2,000 a day in dividends, and to provide for the enlargement and development of the work. Besides this, over 100 tons of one of a semanthet lower product lower and low of the guess in the case of the work development of the war Bagle, that he found it unnecessary to make any large claims of ore of a somewhat lower than that shipped is piled on the dump. The pile already accumulated is worth, according to Mr. Hall, the mining manager, a quarter of a million dol-

would gross \$40 per ton. From this a

ssland men is influenced by the fact that they are United States citizens. It is said that they favor their own country and their own countrymen in many things as well as in this, and the fact that all the profits made out of the Le Roi mine are carried out of the country does not make it any more agreeable to have them transfer half their operations to their own nation.

At present the Le Roi mine employs about 140 men, and when we were there employment was freely offered to good miners accustomed to ma-chine working. The regular wages for such men is \$3.50 a day. This means \$24.50 a week, for they know no Sunday in these mining camps. As very good hoard may be had at from \$4 to \$6 a week, the steady miner, who keeps away from the forty saloons. may do well. It is probable that in September the demand for labor will ease, for at that time the prospectors will be coming in from the hills and will want work under ground for the winter, in order to get money enough to keep them on the hills again next summer.

After visiting the LeRoi and having talk with Mr. Hall, a clever Cornish nan, who had charge of the operaions, we wandered over to the War which is only a stone throw Both mines are on the same way. lope of the same hill, and be hem are two or three others, including the Iron Mask, which is within talking distance of the War Eagle. The War Eagle, under its previous owners, paid during two years about two hundred thousand dollars in divilends. It was bought last year

seorge Gooderham, the wealthy distiller of Toronto, and his son-in-law, Mr. Blackstock, barrister. It is understood that they will still own the bulk of the stock, and operations are But the Toronto men are taking no dividends. They employ 135 men, and are taking out for shipment, just ore enough to pay the cost of operating. They are driving their levels along the veins and stopping out the ore so as to he in a position to take it out fast when the time comes. The War Eagle people, like the LeRoi men, complain the cost of smelting and consider it more profitable to perform the preliminary work while the price of melting is high, and to take out the ore when the price of smelting is lower. So, while they could take out a hundred tons a day, which would net them, after smelting expenses are paid, \$25 a ton, they prefer to take out lars a ton more. The manager of the War Eagle talked very candidly and torate of a number of mining syndifreely about the mine. He said that on the usual basis of calculation, there was perhaps a million dollars worth of ore in sight, but added that this report of ore in sight was usually rather uncertain. In fact, he remark ed, when a man says he has a million dollars' worth of ore in sight, he only eans that he has blocked out a ans that he has blocked out a field is Mr. Gandier, younger brother antity which will turn out that uch if there are no breaks in it, and it holds out as much as it has quantity which will turn out that

A man by the name of Ross owned a considerable part of the town site of Rossland. He seems to have got rich. not by mining, but by selling lots. A year or two ago building lots in this place were sold at fabulous prices. Looking back now at the inflation period, it is hard to see why there should have been this craze for lots, for there is plenty of room all over these hills, and there should be no reason for paying prices that would be high in a city of forty or fifty thousand people. That is all over now. The town has reached rock bottom Speculators in real estate, who thought they were rich, are poor again, and the bottom is said to be knocked out of Rossland. As a matter of fact, prices are reasonable, and if any considerable number of new mines should turn out good, Rossland will be all right. But at present it is at least twice as large a town as the industries in the place warrant. There is not enough money earned on that hill to keep the town up. It has been living mainly upon the hopes of people living there, and on the hopes of people abroad who are making investments in that district. The mining people, many of them, believe that there will be ten or twenty mines as good as the best one now working. If that happens, Rossland will be a greater town by far than it is now. But at this moment it ap-

pears that the attention of the investor is rather attracted to the silver mines of the Slocan country, and to the new 'propositions" around Trout Lake than to the gold ores of the Trail district. The mind of the miner turns ever to the newer fields, and even from these later discoveries a rush is setting in toward the Yukon.

A good many eastern men are located around these mining districts, and among the miners Nova Scotlans may be found everywhere. Mr. Bell located Mr. Hugh Fraser and his son from carried on more vigorously than ever. Pictou, who are blacksmiths at the War Eagle mine, and J. R. Fraser, formerly of New Glasgow, now an engineer in the employ of the Iron Mask.

Frank Baird, a son of George F. Baird, ex-M. P., of St. John, is mining broken and mining lawyer in the town, and spends a good deal of time on the hills. He has made a number of purchases, which promise well, and when last seen was on his way to New York to negotiate for the development of a property in the Sandon district, in which the Hon. Geo. E. Foster and Hon. T. M. Daly are interested. And speaking of Mr. Daly, formerly minister of the interior, it may be said that he is one of the thirty-five tons a day and leave the principal lawyers and mining men in rest until it will net them several dol- this region. He is a member of a strong legal firm, and is on the direccates. In the same building is Mr. Abbott, whose father will be remembered as the builder of the Eastern Extension rallway in Nova Scotia. Frank Mosher, formerly of St. Mar-tins, is doing business in Rossland, but has lately been locating some promising claims at the Big Bend. One of the successful missionaries in this

The great mine at ver King, and the called the Poorman. had, up to the end duced eight hundred of silver and two red thousand pounds property belongs to company, limited, wh others in the neighbo pany is stocked for nillion dollars and h deal of money, the which has been inve melting works, near this smelter some this of ore from the mine by way of an air tran ing more than a cab in the air, down which ried in a kind of ba on the main wire fo nearly five miles. aerial tramways mu this one, notably that Five mine at Sandon. quite a sight to see load more than four a from the mouth of a destination. The act 3,750 feet, or three qui so there is no difficult. the empty buckets of the descending or this transportation or It carries from 150 to load, and the 850 buc set away with 145 tor This Silver hours. valuable property and to be on the market. The Poorman mine and has already yield In the Nelson district locations recorded, an show that 1,138 free gistered there. Ever mining camps must b It costs him \$5 a year unless he has that neither mine nor hold ty. Anyone else can the owner does not ke renewed, so one may number of certificat miners and property in the various d may be said that in division 4,200 certific last year. There were

eastern provinces. Mr

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Gold Fields company umbia, whereof Sir C

chairman, is now about developed, under th James Marrish, the la

that company. Mr.

perienced miner, havin for some years in Sou served in the recent

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as a veteran in more

mile sail. The boats will deliver you at Trail, which is the point where the Rossland gold fields send their pro-ducts to be smelted.

Trail is a town of two or three thou-sand people, and Rossland has six or seven thousand. From Trail you go to Rossland by a narrow gauge rail-way which climbs twenty-five hun-dred test up hill in a distance of 11 miles, and which easily brings the Rossland ore down to the Trail smelt-er. If you are going to the Slocan Rossland ore down to the Trail smelt-er. If you are going to the Slocan district you still take the boat at Arrowhead and go on either to Rob-son or a chorter distance to Nakusp, both of which are on the Arrowhead lakes, which is another name for the Columbia river. You get off at Nakusp if you wish to go to Sandon or Slocan City or Kaslo. The C. P. R. has a railway to Sandon, and an-other commany has one from that R. has a railway to Sandon, and an-other company has one from that point to Kasio. Kasio itself is eitu-ated on the Kootenay lake, which here is somewhat nearly parallel to the Columbia and further east. If you wish to go to Slocan City you abandon the railway between Nakusp and Sandon, and take a boat south-ward on the Slocan take, a convenient body of water between the Kootenay and the Columbia. If you desire to go to Ne'son you will not leave the boat at Arrowhead, but will go on past Nakusp to Röbbson, whence a 28 mile railway will take you to Ne'son. The Bast Kootenay is not reached. of that smelter. The East Kootenay is not reached from Revelstoke built from a point on the C. P. R. further east, where the C. P. R. people have built a railway southward, connecting with a water stretch on which they have placed a beat

It will be seen that every village or mining camp (as they call it) can be reached by rail and boat from the Canadian Pacific. That great and enterprising corporation has no less than five connecting fines of railway already built in this country, and is already built in this country, and is engaged in constructing more. It has boats on seven routes at least, owning eight or nine boats in all. These are for the most part very fine vessels, especially those on the Arrowhead lakes, which contain all the conveni-ences and superfluithes that modern travel requires. These boats, and I believe most of the others, were built on the lakes, some of them at Nakusp, and perhaps some in other waters. They had to be built there, because they could not be got in if they had They had to be built there, because they could not be got in if they had been built elsewhere. At Newrop there is now a steamer on the stocks. The libtle boat on the Kootenay lake is said to be the fastest of the fleet, being good for twenty miles an hour. But all of them are sufficiently fast practical purposés.

It has been said that nature laid It has been saw out at nature laid herself out to provide water roads through this country. To show how well this has been done it may be mentioned that the Kootenay rises somewhere near the C. P. R. Mne west of the Rocky provider the content of the Rocky provider. of the Rocky mountains, runs south across the border, turns about and omes north, pushing well up towards , cn purpose apparently

a river. At pre sent th hotel, two small shops, and a few minute cabins at Robson. These constitute the visible part of the town. The invisible part is the town site, which the C. P. R. owns, and which, it is prepared to sell at two hundred iollars a lot, with two hundred and

fifty dollars for the corner lots. As there is no sign of a street, it is not easy to distinguish the corner lots from the others except by the price. One of the shops is kept by the Beer company, composed of Edgar Beer and his cousin from Charlottetown. When I last saw Edgar Beer before, he was at St. John as a member of the Mt. Allison football team. He has been locating mines around these mountains, and that gives him exercise enough. So he plays football no more. Mr. Beer went to Red Deer and tried stock farming. He gave that up, and became a purchaseer of supplies for Heinze, the smelter king of Trail. Following this, he had a short experience as a patient at Banff, and now he is growing up with the town of Robson. There is a belief that Robson will have a big smelter some day, and a big smelter is a big thing for a town in this country. A good many town lots may be sold on the strength

dangerously, in a place of resort in

The boat which leaves Arrowhead in

preadth. You have the inevitable

evit-

When you get to Trail, which you find on your right as you go south, you discover a hillside town, the most of it discover a hillside town, the most of it scattered along the river bank, and thence straggling up the hills, which rise rather violently. On the river bank just above the town, a high pro-montory projects itself against the stream, and right on top of this are

stream, and right on top of this are the Heinze smelter works. This estab-lishment takes the ore from the Ross-land mines, chiefly from the Le Roi, and crushes, bakes, washes, and oth-erwise punishes the raw material un-til it is finally separated into its principal elements, or at least until the valuable parts are taken out. I will not weary the reader with an ac-count of the process, partly because count of the process, partly because he will not understand it if I do, and partly because I do not understand it myself. But this smelter takes about 250 tons of ore a day and could and the second s gold and silver out of it.

gold and sliver out of it. The smelling works employ from a hundred to a hundred and twenty-five men, many of them skilled workmen, earning four and five dollars per day. The works themselves are said to have cost half a million dollars, and the railway which Heinze built to Ross-land may have cost half as much.

Mr. Auguste Heinze is a man of Mr. Auguste Heinze is a man of mark in these parts. He is not yet thirty years old, but he is easily the dominant mind in this region. Peo-ple say that he is getting rich too fast, by charging too large money for smelting ores, and they all agree that his railway from Rossland to Trail is t costs one dollar to ride eleven miles ver this road, while the distance in direct line between the termini is more than paying for itself every year. It costs one dollar to ride eleven miles over this road, while the distance in

lation of seven thousand, and d less that number of people make Ross-lan1 their headquarters. A good many of these alleged residents are most of of press aneged residents are most or the time prospecting among the hills and only appear in the city to bring down the fruits of their labors or to procure supplies of a solid or liquid character. Many of them are in camp some distance away doing the assessment work, which the law rerequires in order that they may hold their claims. There are over two thousand claims in the Trail district, of which Rossland is the principal cenof which Rossland is the principal cen-tre, and each claim that is retained requires that \$100 worth of work shall be done each year for five years. But Rossland has houses enough for a permanent population of four or five thousand, and the people are said to be protty well crowded in some of these cottages se cottages. the As a corporation the town has large ambition. The mayor and aldermen are doing all they can to restrain the settilers from building their houses promiscuously among the rocks, with-

out regard to the line of streets the points of the compass. They are energetically struggling to have streets built at right angles, and with a reasonable grade. To accomplish this they are culting through hills and leveliling up hollows at what ap-pears to be a tremendous outlay for a town of that size. When we were a town of that size. When we were there a gang of men were trying to dissolve a hill by hydraulte power, pouring on it a stream having consid-erable force, and washing away the country at a rate which would per-haps bring the road through the hill within a month or two. A very large a bool house has been provided and within a month or two. A very large shool house has been provided, and already a number of churches are in operation, while some larger ones are in course of construction. The ambi-tion of the town authorities extends to the matter of salaries. A slight sen-sation was caused about the time of our arrival by the announcement that the council had voted the mayor a salary of \$1.600 a year and to each salary of \$1,600 a year, and to each of the aldermen an annual allowance

I have reason to be grateful to this mayor, Scott of Rosssand. In jour-neying about with Mr. Bell I have been pained to observe that he, being a member of parliament, usually got precedence in the matter of rooms at the hotels. But at Nelson, which is a considerable town in the Kootenay country, I had my triumph. There fell to me an elegant room on the first floor, while the member for Pictou had to be content with a smaller one somewhere upstairs. The whole affair was explained the next morning, when it was discovered that a similarity of names had led the hotel proprietor to suppose that he was entertaining the I have reason to be grateful to this

suppose that he was entertaining the lord mayor of Rossland. Now Ross-land and Nelson are nearly 100 miles apart, and the fact that Mr. Scott should be esteemed worthy of a spe-cial honor at this distance shows how great a man the mayor of Rossland is.

The Le Roi people, and in fact all the other producers, complain of the cost of smelting. They say that five or six dollars, instead of eleven dollars, ought to pay for it. And it because the smelting bills are so high that they are pilling up a considerable part of the ore around the mine, in-tending to hold it until better terms can be made. Since we left the place the Le Roi company has made a contract to have a smelting plant erected at Northport, across the United States border. There is a line of railway from Rossland to Northport, and the Le Roi people say that they will save

money by carrying on the operations themselves. On the other hand, there is a strong feeling throughout the to be smelted in the dominion, and no doubt a strong demand will be made for the operation of the law which en ables the government to levy a duty of \$2 a ton on ores exported. A large of \$2 a ton on ores exported. A large quantity of the Slocan ore, in fact nearly all of it, is now shipped to smelters across the line. But this has been regarded as temporary, pending the establishment of mills within the district. It has been felt that in view of the high price of coal and other necessities it was not well to interfere with foreign smelting. In a year or two the coal fields of the Crow's Nest will be available, and in the mean-time a good deal of liberty might reasonably be allowed in the way of ship-ping one to the large smelling towns in the neighboring states, such as Omaha, Denver and Butte City.

But it is a different story when th owners of mines in the Kootenay build smelters for themselves immediately south of the line, and thus give per-manency to the system of smelting Canadian ores in a foreign country. Some of these ores require alm large a force in the smelting large a force in the smelting works as they do at the mine, and the re-suit of this system is to transfer to a foreign country one-half of the advan-tage of the Canadian resources. In that case not only is the labor em-ployed abroal, but the supplies are furnished from outside of Canada, while under the alien laws Canadian people will be prohibited from work-ing up their own ores. This is the way the reskients of the Kootenay argue the case, and a strong influence argue the case, and a strong influence will undoubtedly be exerted to induce the government to exact that \$2 duty.

But the managers of the Le Ro mine say that they can better afford to pay \$2 a ton than to continue paying \$11 for smelting. To this Mr. Heinze and those associated with him reply that they are prepared to do the work very much less as soon as they get their coul cheaper. Moreover, the people of Trail have offered the Le Roi men a free site for a smelter if they will only build one themselves at that point. No doubt the action of Frenchman.

ry to make any large claims about it. It does not appear that the owners of the War Eagle are anxious to sell their property at its present stage of development.

The Centre Star mine, which many people regard as the best property of all in the Rossland district, has not yet shipped much ore for dividend purposes, but development work is be-ing pushed with great rapidity, and in a short time it will be turning out a good deal of money. It is claimed that this mine has \$3,000,000 of gold "in sight." We did not see it.

Down to the end of 1896 the Trail Creek region, that is to say Rossland, had shipped \$1,104,000 worth of gold quartz. Today the LeRoi mine is to be worth about five million dollars, and there are three others which would be valued at over a million dollars each.

It has been said that Rossland about three years old, but the begin-ning of the gold mines there dates from about 1890. Over thirty years ago Mr. Dewdney, now lieutenant governor, was instructed to survey and construct a trail through the southern part of the province in order to reach some placer mines farther east, and this trail passed within a mile of the present town of Rossland. It is sup posed that some of the prospectors about this time noticed the ore, but were discouraged by the low grade of the surface rock. It was a quarter of a century afterwards that a French-man located the first claim near this trail. This man's name was Joseph Bourjouis. He located the Centre Star, the War Eagle, and with one J. Morris, staked the Virginia and Idaho. His party also discovered the LeRoi; so that they had the original claim to the four, if not five mines in the whole district. At this time E. S. Topping, an American, was a regis-trar at Nelson, where the mining claims were then recorded. The pros-pectors could not stake more than one claim on the same vein, and they claim on the same vein, and they were short of money to pay the ex-penses of recording. Mr. Topping, therefore, paid the expenses, and was allowed to locate the LeRoi at a cost to himself of about \$30. In 1890, Mr. Topping met two Spokane lawyers and tried to sell them a half of his interest for \$30,000. Eventually the LeRoi property was all transferred to seven or eight Spokane men, who undertook to develop it. One Mr. Durant had charge of the work, and after some vicissitude he got clear of his interest, and today the mine is owned by Spokane people. The original owners of the LeRoi were many of them interested in the Centre Star, the War Eagle, the Idaho, and other valuable mines in this district, but these mines have gradually been separated so that now they are managed

separate companies, and include the most valuable property in the dis-trict. Hundreds of mines have been at the foot of an exceeding high mountain with snow on the top of it. The lake lies smiling in the face of the town, and various small craft ply liscovered about Rossland since then, upon its clear water. The town is one of the oldest in the district, and though not so large as Rossland, has

Trail. Passing the place on one of his first trips to the mine, he saw the owner who had taken up the land and was already sick of it. He offered the 160 acres to Topworth division, to be it. He offered the 160 acres to Top-ping for some \$50. The latter had not that much money and the owner would not trust him. Topping found a man at last who would accept his draft and the transaction was com-The total yield of the in 1835 was \$63,608, reached \$545,529. To it ought to have been the total yield of the pleted. Topping was wise. He went to Heinze and told him he would give gion increased from thousand dollars to thousand dollars last him all the land he wanted for his smelter and his railway. He showered it will be more than d gifts of wharf sites and warehouse lots on the C. P. R.. When the people over last. In fact th first six months of th came in Colonel Topping began to make money. He also began to be a good Canadian, and we saw the Union Jack flying over his fine residence on the whole of last year Among the resident Alexander Dick, well berland county and

Jack Hying over his line residence on a hill overlooking his town. He says he has had great respect for that flag ever since one time he sought and found protection under it from some desperadoes in the far east. S. D. SCOTT.

(No. 16.) Winnipeg, Aug. 4.-We left Rossland one bright afternoon, and slid-ing gently down Mr. Heinze's inclined railway, arrived at Trail, whence we took shipping up the Columbia to Rob-son, which is the point of departure for the town of Nelson. Perhaps it was remarked before that Mr. Heinze is making \$20,000 a month out of his eleven miles of railway. Most of it is made in carrying ore at \$2 a ton down this hill to the smelter, but perhaps a part is earned by carrying passengers eleven miles at \$1 a head with return rate of \$2. It is a pretty with return rate of \$2. It is a pretty large profit, but it will not last long, for the ore transportation rates are to be reduced. So far Mr. Heinze may claim that he has only reaped the re-ward proper to an enterprise which no other man had the courage to un-dertake. As you pass up the Colum-bia from Trail and are far there you dertake. As you pass up the Colum-bia from Trail, and see far above you on the hillside the Trail smelter, which this daring young man built there before there was much ore in sight to be crushed, and see to your left, winding its way up the river, the new railway which he has construct-ed as yet without much be a below ed, as yet without subsidy or help of any kind, but with a hope, no doubt, of weaving it into some of the great continental systems, you cannot re-frain from admiring the man, and from saying, that if we are to have monopolies, let us at least have them under the control of men who will do something and dare something in times when doing and daring are necessary for the advancement of the country. At Patent country. At Robson you take the train for a 28 mile ride to Nelson, which is situated on the Kootenay lckc. The Kootenay lake is just a broadening of the Kootenay river, which empties into the Columbia, but is not navigable until you reach the neighborhood of Nelson. Nelson stands pleasantly situated

as a vereral in more I had some talk wit why takes a cautious a view of mining prosp the opinion that prud carefully watched, and will yield large return At the same time experienced men do, 1 will be, enormous los money in carrying of prises. Of course Mr. isfied with the value group of mines or he roup of interst eastern reade J. E. Leckie, B. S. C., J. E. Leonie, H. S. wi ager of operations in Leokie has not been o he has a sound know engineering and has dence of those with wi brought into contact. number of prospectin tered about the coun men are working for on shares, and alto that he has twenty or over some three the miles of country. We been located, and whi commencing to devel rector and local man time Exploration con principally composed vince capitalists. T

> Mr. Dick is well sa ing prospects in the be considers that a

this company is Fran

mentioned in the prev