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ROSSLAND, B. C.

MINING NOTES.

A. W. Morris of Montreal has bonded the Sovereign on Lookout mountain for \$36,000.

The Reco mine has declared another dividend of \$50,000.

The management of the War Eagle Consolidated is very reticent about the situation at the Crown Point. Whether they are keeping a big thing dark or do not wish the public to boom a strike of small importance, it is impossible to say at present. News of further developments is eagerly looked for.

Silver propositions on Kootenay Lake are being eagerly bought up. The North country is going to have a boom in undeveloped property this year.

Some of the richest grey copper and bromide of silver ore ever seen was brought to Rossland by C. F. Caldwell from the Surprise No. 2 on Duncan river this week. He is one of the men who made the famous mid-winter trip in 1892-93 into that country after the Golden Eagle—a trip which nearly finished both himself and his partner.

S. Wharton, the chief owner of the Cliff mine, has returned from a winter sojourn in the Southern States—a land where they don't shovel snow.

The Monte Cristo has a remarkably encouraging showing in its lower tunnel. For three or four days the drift has been in good ore, and a streak which samples from \$17 to \$48, and is two feet wide, is being followed. This is a big crumb of encouragement for the stockholders, who are largely eastern men.

The Le Roi company has determined to build a smelter and a committee has been appointed to go into the question of a site. It is not improbable that the location chosen will be Barney O'Brien's ranche, which lies on the boundary line at the intersection of the Dewdney trail and the Red Mountain railway.

The gross output of gold from the two main producing mines at Rossland—the War Eagle and Le Roi—is nearly equal to 50 per cent. of the total output of Western Australia. The amount of actual cash originally sunk in the purchase and equipment of these two mines was certainly under \$100,000. Yet a whole nation went crazy over Western Australia and poured millions of treasure into it.

The figures of the South African output for 1896 show a considerable decrease. The Rand shows an increase in the number of crude ounces recovered, but a decrease in the number of refined ounces. This is due to the fact that the cyanide bullion is lower grade than that obtained from the mills. The average yield of gold for every ton of ore crushed in the Rand was .56 ounces, or a minute fraction over \$11 per ton. And a considerable percentage of this was recovered from tailings. If the high-grade producers of the Rand be taken out of account it is clear that a good deal of the gold is actually produced at a loss. And boom conditions in the Rand being now over a further decrease in the number of tons crushed and ounces of gold recovered must be looked for.

The United States still holds the first place as a producer of gold. Australasia comes second, South Africa third and Canada nowhere. But before five years are out Canada's output of gold will be one of the big factors in the world's output.

The danger of an export duty on ore is very slight. The policy of the government seems to be to free mining from restrictions instead of burdening it with more.

Many people seem to think that the market for mining machinery in Kootenay will be smaller this year than it was last. On the contrary, it will be greater.

Rossland is chipping and milling 5,000 tons of ore every month. This output should show a large increase before the end of the summer.

There is a first class showing in the winze on the Gold Bar. An average assay gave values of \$19.

The complete breakdown of communication is having a bad effect on business. It is only temporary, however.

The war in Greece has but very slightly affected adversely the mining interests of British Columbia in London.

Mr. Wedekind's smelter proposition is still in embryo. Nothing of a definite nature has yet transpired.

Work on the Magnet, the new property acquired by the Montezuma Gold Mining Company, will be commenced forthwith. The showing on this claim is extraordinary, the ore on the surface carrying very high value.

The Steamboat Gang group, comprising four claims, situate four miles from Kootenay lake, and about sixteen from the Nelson smelter, has been secured by the Rossland-Slocan Mines Development Company. A ledge 100 feet wide is said to be traceable through the length of the four claims, and assays ranging from \$81.50 to over \$300 have been secured from surface ore. There are several seams of silver-lead ore from three to eight feet wide showing on the surface of the ledge. It should be easy to make a paying property out of this group.

It is reported in yesterday's Miner that a new process for the reduction of Trail Creek ores is under consideration by Matheson of London. If there is anything in it its practical application will follow as a matter of course.

There is a lot of pyrrhotite and arsenopyrite in Rossland which contains little or no copper but fair value in gold, witness the Jumbo, Kootenay and Crown Point mines. Could this ore not be handled by a cheaper process than that of smelting.

The town of Wardner in East Kootenay is being heavily bonded in anticipation of the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. Statements are being made with regard to it, hardly compatible with the fact that the location line of the railway has not yet been finally made through East Kootenay.

The shaft on the Josie is now down 185 feet. The bottom shows 10 feet of vein with two feet of good ore, the rest mixed ore. The Josie has now 25,000 tons of good shipping ore in sight but shipments will not be resumed at present. The management is interested in a smelter scheme and the difference between \$10 and \$20 a ton profit is enough to warrant keeping the ore in the mine until better facilities for treatment present themselves.

Mining machinery, nitro-glycerine and blasting powder have been placed on the free list under the new tariff bill. Laurier seems to have combined relief to Western industry discrimination against the United States and in favor of Great Britain in such a way as to give intense general satisfaction throughout the whole country.

The Kootenay mine is rapidly being placed in a position to become one of our biggest shipper outside the Le Roi this summer.

One of the most remarkable evidences of the progress of actual mining in Kootenay is the importance which water rights in the various districts are acquiring.

The Hon. A. W. Morris is making a thorough tour of the Kootenay mines. He will be able to speak with authority, and not as a scribe, when he returns to Montreal.

The Kansas City Smelting Company is reported to be about to build a smelter at 5-mile point on the outlet to Kootenay Lake above Nelson. Nelson City, commonly called Bogustown, would surely have made a better site.

It is reported that the Pilot Bay smelter has passed into the hands of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. No mention is made of the Bluebill mine. If they have got the smelter without the mine they may be able to make a success of it.