SILVER MINING IN SLOCAN.

Development in Boundary Country—Gooderham-Blackstock's Big Ore Contract.

ACTIVITY IN THE YMIR CAMP.

Michipicoton Copper Deposit Shows Up Rich—General Mining News and Gossip.

In spite of the fact that the mining camps of the Slocan are undergoing a hard financial depression, and many business concerns have been forced to the wall or have removed to Boundary Creek camps, yet the producing mines are employing more men and are sending down more ore than at any period in the history of the white metal mining in British Columbia. When it is taken into consideration that the Ruth and Slocan Star, two of the heaviest shippers in 1898, have not shipped a ton of ore since the first of the year, this is remarkable.

A comparison of the figures of the past three years shows that with the Slocan Star, Ruth and Noble Five left out, the output of the Slocan shippers since the first of January is one-half as heavy as the total shipment for the year 1896, and exceeds the shipments for the same period in 1897-98 by about 4000 tons.

The shipments since January 1 to March 31 will reach, in round numbers, 10,000 tons. For the same period in 1897-98 the shipments amounted to possibly 5000. Below is a list of the shippers, showing the number of tons shipped since January 1 in comparison with the shipments for the same period in 1898:

	1898.	1899.
From Sandon—		
Payne	1,700	3,000
Last Chance	600	1,600
Slocan Star	480	...
Ruth	1,020	...
Sapphire	...	18
Coin	...	12
Ajax	...	40
Sovereign	...	20
Reco	240	160
Ivanhoe	...	100
Treasure Vault	...	35
Trade Dollar	...	18
From Three Forks—		
Idaho Mines	500	800
Queen Bess	200	1,000
Wild Goose	...	15
Monitor	...	40
From Whitewater—		
Whitewater	...	900
Jackson	...	500
Bell	...	30
From McGulgan—		
Antoine	...	80
Rambler	...	250
Dardanelles	...	100
Great Western	...	48
From New Denver—		
Rosun	...	340
Marion	...	20
From Silverton—		
Vancouver	...	340
Wakefield	...	580
Comstock	...	120
Emily Edith	...	80
Totals	4,740	10,246

Prior to January 1, 1898, there were several small shippers from Sandon, among them the American Boy, Slocan Boy, Wonderful, Ajax, Majestic, Freddie Lee, Mt. Adams, Goodenough, Canadian group, Sovereign and Trade Dollar. The last two named are the only ones of these small properties that have shipped ore since the first of January. The Noble Five was closed down in the latter part of 1897 and has shipped nothing since, though development work has been pushed steadily for the past year, and greater ore bodies have lately been struck than were ever known on this property before. The same can be said of the Slocan Star and Ruth. When these properties resume shipments as of old, which will be in the near future, they will add several thousand tons of ore to the year's output, and ought to bring the total shipments for the year from Slocan mines up to 50,000 tons. Putting the value of this ore at $75 per ton, the year's output will be valued at $3,750,000.

War Eagle's Big Contract.

The Spokane Spokesman gives further details of the big ore contract between the Gooderham-Blackstock people and the Trail smelter, which was first announced by wire in The World. The Spokesman says:

"The biggest ore contract ever made in the Rossland camp has been made between the War Eagle Consolidated Mining and Development Company and the Canadian Smelting Works at Trail. While the contract has not yet been signed by the officers of the War Eagle company, who are absent in Europe, it is practically in effect and shipments are being made on the basis of the agreement. The agreement has been signed by T. G. Shaughnessy for the smelting works, and is to run for two years, during which time a minimum of 300,000 tons of ore is to be shipped, which will amount to a gross value of $10,000,000. It is expected that the shipments will amount to not less than 500,000 tons, however, which will be worth over $16,000,000.

"It should be borne in mind that the cost of development work in the War Eagle is about $1.75 and the cost of mining is about $3.25, or a total of $5. This has been the cost in the past, but with the largely increased output the cost may be reduced to some extent. The cost of shipping and smelting will be about $6, making a total cost of $11 per ton.

"At the present price of copper the ore is worth about $25, gross, per ton, leaving a net profit of $14 per ton. For the minimum amount, 300,000 tons, this means a profit of over $4,000,000 in two years, or if the larger amount is shipped a profit of $7,000,000.

"The War Eagle mine cost the present owners $700,000, and the Centre Star, which is also included in the contract, cost $2,000,000. Since the present company obtained control of the War Eagle it has paid in dividends $258,000. This leaves a net profit of at least $1,750,000 within the next two years, and the properties will then have been little more than scratched."

Stamps in Ymir Camp.

Ymir is becoming one of the principal shipping centres in British Columbia. Six months ago not a pound of ore was being sent out from its mines, but three of the principal properties completed their arrangements for shipping almost simultaneously early in the present year, and now a large amount of ore is being sent out every week.

At present there are three stamp mills operating in the vicinity. The Ymir mine has a 40-stamp mill, which is the largest in British Columbia. The Porto Rico and Fern mines have both 10-stamp mills in operation, making a total of 60 stamps falling in Ymir. The Dundee mine has a concentrator with a capacity of 50 tons per day, now, however, temporarily shut down in consequence of the fire, which damaged the hoisting machinery. The Ymir mill has also been delayed in its operations by lack of water.

These temporary hindrances will, however, be shortly removed. The total ore treated per day in Ymir will then stand as follows: Ymir 100 tons, Porto Rico 30 tons, Fern 30 tons, Dundee 50 tons, total 210 tons.

These figures represent ore milled in the camp. Other mines are shipping ore to the Northport smelter. Up to the present date the Black Cock mine, owned by Messrs. Julien and Audit, has shipped 238 tons, and is now steadily shipping 50 tons per week. The Tamarac mine has a quantity of high-grade ore sacked for shipment, and has already made a trial shipment of 6½ tons.

Michipicoton Copper.

The Sault Ste. Marie Star says: Mr. Joseph Cozens returned to town after a rough trip from Michipicoton last week, with samples of native copper from his mine there, which, in richness of copper, far exceed anything ever seen here before. Mr. Cozens is quite jubilant over this new "find," and believes that he has the richest copper mine in the world today, and local experts seem to share the same view. Mr. Cozens has left for Chicago.

Activity in Boundary Country.

Grand Forks, B.C., March 25.—(Special Correspondence.)—The Boundary country is destined to become one of the wealthiest portions of the province. In it are four distinct mineral basins—that around Christina Lake on the east; that adjacent to the North Fork of the Kettle River, and that of the Main Kettle River, with Rock Creek and other tributaries.

The whole area covers a distance of about forty miles east and west, and extends about 50 miles northwards. There have been numerous finds of ore in all these basins, but a good deal of unexplored territory is still open to the prospector, while further north is a region that is practically a virgin field for the gold seeker. The ore bodies in the Boundary country are very large, and carry good values in gold and copper, or gold and silver. A good deal of the preliminary development work has been done on numerous properties, and on some claims costly plants have been placed. The output, however, has hitherto not been large, owing to the heavy expense in shipping the ore, but the obstacle in the progress of the country will have been overcome during the coming summer by the extension of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway.

The Boundary country possesses other resources besides its latent mineral wealth. It has fertile valleys with great capabilities for grain-growing, and grassy hillsides, which afford splendid ranging ground for stock. Fruit growing, although not carried on very largely, has shown splendid results, the apples of the valley around Grand Forks being as fine as those grown anywhere. Vegetables are also a prolific crop. Irrigation works in some sections have already been inaugurated, and with the enlargement of the system a large area will be brought under cultivation, the products of which will find a ready market at home.

Grand Forks, one of the centres of the Boundary Creek country, possesses a great future. The town has received a great impetus on account of the decision of Montreal capitalists to erect a smelter in the vicinity this summer. The population now exceeds 1200, and is increasing since January at the rate of 100 a month. Activity reigns supreme. New buildings are going up by the score. At present there is a lack of store accommodation, but this will be remedied within a few weeks. The town owns its electric lighting plant and waterworks.

Strike on Minnehaha.

Letters received in the city the past day or two confirm the disgruntled report of the finding of the Minnehaha vein in the drift from the third level of the main shaft. This makes the mine two-thirds as deep as the Cariboo. The ore is said to be rich, where struck.

Deer Park.

The Board of the Deer Park Mining Company have received from Mr. J. B. Hastings his report upon the property, which is of a disappointing nature. From the examination and assays made by him, he comes to the conclusion that in the present workings there are no available ore reserves which would pay, although it might

Continued on Page 7.

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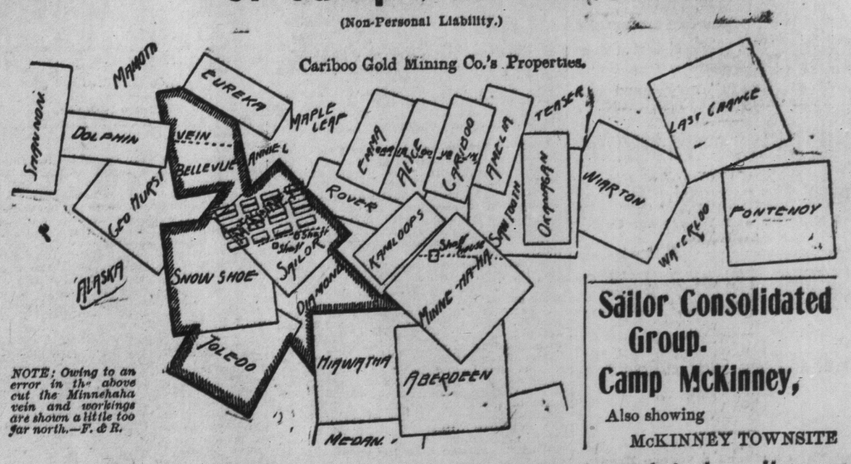

NOTE: Owing to an error in the above cut the Minnehaha vein and workings are shown a little too far north.—F. & R.

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