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MINERALS IN THE HEART OF ISLAND

Provincial Assayer Describes the Big Interior and Other Mines

TWO THOUSAND FOOT WATER FALL

Splendid Scenery to Be Met With in Mountains Above Great Central Lake

In view of the proposed early construction of a railway across Vancouver Island from the vicinity of Nanaimo to Alberni canal, the bulletin just issued by the Department of Mines on the west coast, mention of which was made yesterday, is particularly timely.

One of the localities to which attention is given is Great Central lake, now easily accessible from Alberni, by a wagon road about 12 miles long. The lake mentioned runs about east and west, and is about 25 miles long and a mile or so wide. Two creeks flow into its western end, a trail following the most northerly for a distance of about 10 miles. Both end in a basin, shut in by high mountains. A precipitous bluff, 2,075 feet high, rises to the south, from the top of which pours a considerable stream of water that barely touches the rocks until it reaches the bottom, breaking into spray in its descent. On the top of the bluff, to ascend which steut muscles are required, there is a small rocky plateau enclosing a lake about half a mile by a quarter, having an elevation of about 3,350 feet above sea level. It is surrounded by snowclad mountains, rising 2,000 feet higher, and with, to use Mr. Carmichael's words, "the blue crevassed glacier of the Nine Peaks showing up to the south in the morning sun, forms a beautiful scene."

The most important mine in the vicinity is the Big Interior group of seven claims, owned by Messrs. Drinkwater and Nicholls, of Alberni, and residents of Victoria. The mineral is exposed on precipitous cliffs, surrounding a small basin on three sides, the location being a short distance north of the small lake just mentioned. Practically the entire face of the cliffs is iron stained, and at the base there are thousands of tons of the rock The cliff is of granitoid rock, mineralized with copper pyrites, pyrrhotite and pyrite in varying proportions.

As to the probable commercial value of the property Mr. Carmichael reaches the following conclusions:

"The mineralized zone, showing in the face of the cliff to the north of the basin and forming the great mass of low grade mineral on the property, is so large, so inaccessible, and the mineralization so scattered, that it would be impossible to obtain anything approximating an average general sample of the exposure without the expenditure of an amount of time and money not justifiable under the circumstances. However, at the foot of the cliff, there is a talus extending the whole length or width of the mineralized zone, made up of material broken away from the whole face of the zone in question. While this talus may to a certain extent have been affected by weathering, it still may be considered a very approximate sample of the inaccessible cliff. Samples were taken from this talus, from which it is judged that approximately the central portion of the minertlized zone will assay from one-half to one per cent copper, with from one and one-half to two ounces silver per ton, and a trace of gold. These values extend over a width of about 1,500 feet, while to the right the mineralization gradually fades off into the country rock.

"To the left of the mineralized zone is what has been called, for purposes of designation, the 'brecciated zone,) and which is merely a continuation, to the left, of the mineralized zone which has here been subjected to a crushing due to movement, and in which the interstices between the fragments of the rock have been filled with secondary minerals, chiefly calcite, with some carbonate of copper, forming a secondary enrichment. This secondary enrichment has taken place as would be expected, along defined channels, producing streaks of higher grade mineralization often forming commercial ore. Here, again, no general sampling was possible; although a tunnel has been driven for some 31 feet into the bluff, it was found impossible to examine the face of the cliff for 10 feet on either side of the tunnel mouth.

"The mineralization just described and which forms the great bulk of visible mineralization on the property, is admittedly very much diffused through the rock, and is consequently so low grade as to be of value only if found to be amenable to some form of concentration, and of which there seems to be a fair probability.

"On the top of the mountain is an area in which the mineralization seems to be more concentrated, producing, in places, ore of a grade to stand transportation and treatment charges. This higher grade ore appears to occur along the lines of contact of alternating bands of granite rock and limestone. The extent of the latter deposit it was found impossible to determine, as the ore was found to be covered in most places by a heavy capping of gossan, and in many places seemingly permanent snow and ice covered up the formation. While the future of the property is far from being proven, the very great extent of the mineralization, with occasional concentrations, certainly renders the proposition worthy of most careful investigation and prospecting."

Two claims, the Della and Glacier, situated in Big Interior basin, are of an entirely different character. On them is a quartz vein, from two to three feet in width, mineralized with arsenical iron. As assayed by Mr. Carmichael, the straight ore is of high value having the following values: Gold, 5.12 oz. per ton; silver, 5.22 oz., and copper one per cent. The deposit is at present being worked by roasting the ore and grinding in an arastra, run by a small water-wheel constructed on the ground.

Several copper properties that promise to well repay development are described in the bulletin. Of these the most important are the Southern Cross group of five claims, situated on the north side of Uchucklesaht harbor, the Happy John group, on the west side of Alberni canal, and the Nahmint, some twelve or thirteen miles further up.

On the first named a zone of 17 feet of ore has been uncovered and a sample taken of the best looking ore assayed 18 per cent in copper. There are also good indications on the Happy John; one of them being a body of solid copper pyrites about 2 1-2 feet in width at the widest part, wedge shaped, with the apex upwards, which assays 12 per cent copper, with small gold and silver values. No work has been done lately on the Nahmint.

Two properties on the east side of Alberni canal, the Gladys and Edith group, are shortly described in the bulletin. A selected sample of ore from the former assayed 16.48 per cent copper; 2.32 oz. silver and 0.2 oz. in gold.

This bulletin, read in conjunction with that on the "Iron Ores of the Coast of British Columbia," by the provincial mineralogist, published in 1902, and of which copies are still available will convey a good idea of the actual mining done so far on the West coast of Vancouver Island. There are many claims mentioned that for want of space, cannot be mentioned here.

SWANSON, ALIAS MOORE, COMMITTED FOR TRIAL

One of Couple Who Attacked W. W. Thompson During Fog Will Face Judge

James Swanson, alias Moore, one of the two men accused of springing from behind freight cars on the E. & N. railway at Victoria West and attacking W. W. Thompson on Tuesday night during the fog, was charged before Magistrate Hall in the police court yesterday with assault with intent to do bodily harm. Carney, his companion, was not arrested. He managed to stow away on board the steamer Indianapolis and left the vessel at Tacoma. W. Moresby defended Swanson.

Mr. Thompson gave evidence that when coming from Victoria West by the railroad track, he was emerging from the rock-cut when two men sprang from behind a freight car and attacked him. He was struck on the face, and one of the two attempted to choke him. In the scuffle both assailants dropped their hats, and when Thompson fought them off, they ran, taking his hat and leaving their own. He brought both hats to the police station and reported the happening.

Chief Langley gave evidence of the arrest of Swanson, who was wearing Thompson's hat. The magistrate committed Swanson for trial, defence being reserved. It is understood that Swanson claims that he and Carney had been drinking in Chinatown and felt like fighting. They had no intention of robbing Thompson, but wanted to hit somebody. They saw him coming and hid behind the freight cars until he was near them, when they ran out and struck him.

Services for Business Men

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew has arranged for a series of special services for business men to be held during Lent. These will commence tomorrow and will be held daily until Maundy Thursday, March 28, taking place in the Seamen's Institute on Langley street. They will last from 12:30 to 12:50, finishing exactly at that hour in order to allow plenty of time for those who have to get back to their business at 1 o'clock. Tomorrow the address will be delivered by the Lord Bishop of Columbia, while on Tuesday Canon Beanlands will speak. The brotherhood has arranged for a different clergyman to take the service each day. Similar devotional exercises were held during Lent last year and were largely attended.

NEW RAILWAY HAS SMALLEST MILEAGE

Authorities Agree in Stating That Bute Inlet is the Best Route

RICHES OF CHILCOTIN PLAINS

Large Areas of Agricultural and Pastoral Lands Await the Coming Settlers

The statement made a couple of days ago, on the authority of D. R. Ker, that the Canadian Northern railway had filed tentative plans at Ottawa covering a route from Yellowhead pass to Bella Coola should not be taken to mean that the company mentioned, of necessity, is committed to this route. On the other hand, so far as is known, neither that nor any other company has actually surveyed this way of crossing the province.

Only one step has been taken on the strength of those plans, and it is probably all that was contemplated. The right to utilize the Yellow Head pass in entering the province has been secured, but nothing more. No right of way is obtained by filing such maps and the route is liable to change at any time.

The most complete information available regarding the route from Bella Coola is given by Lieut. H. Spencer Palmer, R. E., who surveyed it as far as Alexandria, on the Fraser river, in 1862. His report is distinctly unfavorable. Though he devoted considerable attention to the subject of pasturage enroute, as he was endeavoring to locate a wagon road from the coast to Cariboo, his observations on the topographical features of the country have been quoted with approval by all later authorities. Summarizing the North Bentick arm (i. e. Bella Coola,) route he says: "My own impression is that, viewed simply with reference to land travel, the route is, from its high continuous elevation unlikely to acquire importance. Bute inlet appears to possess far greater advantages of geographical position."

And the Bute inlet route, from the Mainland to Edmonton, via Yellow Head pass is much shorter than that from Bella Coola. Sir Standford Fleming in his report on the C. P. R. Explorations and surveys, 1874 gives, the distance from North Bentick Arm to Edmonton as 950 miles, while that from Bute inlet, to the same place, along the route advocated by D. M. Eberts, is only 806 miles, a difference of 144 miles in favor of the latter without considering the great advantage of the more southerly one. Further, although the Burrard inlet route was eventually adopted for the C. P. R. Marcus Smith, in the report mentioned had this to say: "The line to Bute inlet is more favorable through the coast chain of mountains to Waddington harbor, at the head of the inlet, where tide water is reached, and from which the navigation is good to any harbor in British Columbia." After pointing that any port on the West coast of Vancouver Island could be reached without difficulty, he dwells on the necessity of a new route being surveyed from Yellow Head pass. This was done in 1895 by H. P. Bell, C. E., and others who followed practically the lines laid down by Mr. Smith. His conclusions therefore apply: "On reference to the map it will be seen that this route is very direct from Yellow Head pass to the waters of the Pacific, but its engineering features or its practicability can only be ascertained by the test of actual survey." As this test has been made the Bute inlet is the best.

Robert Borland, the well known merchant and rancher of 150 mile house, Cariboo, who is in the city, has traveled over a large portion of the district proposed to be traversed by the new railway and has a very high opinion of its resources. He states that from the Fraser river west, starting at Riske creek, the valleys of the Chilcotin, Chilco, Whitewater, and Chilanco rivers contain splendid agricultural country in enormous areas. With the exception of a belt of timber round Sawmill creek most of the country south of the Chilcotin is suited for farming, while to the north, stretching through the interior to the south end of Tacla lake there are large areas of first class pasturage. In his opinion no engineering difficulties would be encountered by the proposed railway and the resources of the Chilcotin country, as the whole area is generally termed, would provide a large traffic as soon as the road was constructed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A LETTER ON LABOR

Sir,—In the report of the Board of Trade of Victoria, I noticed that the employers were trying to get up a bit of excitement over what they are pleased to term the "scarcity of labor."

As no such scarcity exists at the present time in any of the different department of labor, it will be readily seen that to serve their own ends those same employers would be pleased to flood Victoria with laborers of any kind, to keep the mechanics who have their homes in Victoria out of work.

Mr. Bullen said (at this meeting), something to the effect that the factories were throttled for want of men to keep them going. It must be Mr. Bullen's own factory. I know of no other, and if conditions were right, Mr. Bullen's factory would not be throttled.

The facts are: Some three months ago the boilermakers, helpers, blacksmiths and shipwrights, gave the employers notice for an eight hour day. Since that time we have been busy having a good time, as we have had nothing else to do, while our employers have been busy crying "Scarcity of labor in Victoria," all the way back East. Now, Mr. Editor, Mr. Bullen is not being held up for more pay, but to establish an eight hour day, as all other places on the coast, (with the exception of one), have. There is but one shipyard that I know of from Seattle to San Diego that have not an eight hour day with higher wages than we have in Victoria. At new or old work all over the Sound they get $4.50 for eight hours. In San Francisco at the present time they have $5 for new work and $6 for old, eight hours constituting a day's work. In Victoria we get but $3.50 for new work and $4.50 for old, and though the cost of living has certainly advanced, our wages remain the same. The fact is, Sir, those employers would like the public to think they are being badly used by the men, and by crying "Scarcity of labor," would do all in their power to get the city flooded with workers, so that they will be able to dictate the number of hours they shall work, and the amount of wages they shall pay.

Trusting that I have not taken up too much of your valuable space and thanking you in anticipation of your favor.

D. L. KELLY.

Victoria, Feb. 15.

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For The New Spring Fashions

See Special Window Displays on Government and Broad Streets, Showing the Earliest Arrivals of the Newest and Latest Goods.

Dame Fashion Has Set the Lead. We Have the First Showing of

Ladies' Coats and Costumes

For Spring Wear

WE are safe in saying that the styles so far received are full of the beauty and distinctiveness of the season, being in most instances fashioned after New York, Paris and London models. Although our spring goods are by no means complete, the most fastidious will admit grace and elegance portrayed in every style exhibited. A few descriptions and prices will interest you.

LADIES' COAT, WHITE AND GREY STRIPED HOMESPUN, 3-4 length with box back and button trimming, full sleeve with deep cuff; special price $12.50

LADIES' BOX COAT, 27 INCHES LONG, BLACK AND WHITE OVERCHECK, black velvet collar and velvet button trimmings, outside pockets; special price $11.50

LADIES' 7-8 LENGTH COAT, WHITE AND BLACK CHECK, bias back with stitched straps over shoulder, outside pockets, velvet collars and cuffs black silk braid and buttons, Special price $25.00

LADIES' 7-8 LENGTH COAT, TWEED MIXTURE fitted back with wide stitched straps, double breasted, green velvet collar and cuffs, sleeves and yoke lined, special price $25.00

LADIES' NAVY BLUE PANAMA CLOTH ETON COSTUME, coat, trimmed with black silk braid and white pipings, black taffeta collar and cuffs, elbow sleeves lined throughout with white taffeta, skirt with double panel front effect and numerous side pleats, special price $42.50

LADIES' ETON WALKING SUIT, BLACK AND WHITE OVERCHECK COAT, trimmed with stitched straps of self and black silk braid, elbow sleeves with cuff, skirt, special price $27.50

LADIES' SMART WALKING SUIT, ETON EFFECT, IN SMALL PIN EFFECT, trimmed with straps of self piped with silk, silk collar with braid trimming, elbow sleeve with cuffs, skirt with pleated panel effect front and back, coat lined throughout with tamaline silk, special price $27.50

LADIES' COSTUMES IN GREY AND WHITE OVERCHECK, tight fitting hip coat, stitched seams, full sleeves with cuff trimmed with black and white stitched silk, lined throughout with grey taffeta, sixteen gored skirt, with inturned pleat at each gore, special price $37.50

"Distinguishing Beauty and Elegance" Is Seen in the First Arrival of Our Spring Styles in Ladies' Footwear

WE have only received a fraction of the newest footwear that is specially manufactured to our order, but what is now showing is characteristic of what we have specially featured for the spring season, and this in order to assert our supremacy for comprehensive assortments at lowest store prices.

AMERICAN FOOTWEAR ("Up to the hour") in patent calf, vici kid, gun metal, Russia calf, white canvas, lavender canvas, oyster grey canvas, etc., etc. A few descriptions, with prices, follow.

WOMEN'S OYSTER GREY CANVAS, sailor tie, welted sole, Cuban heel, canvas covered, per pair $4.00

WOMEN'S LAVENDER CANVAS sailor tie, hand turn sole, Cuban heel canvas covered, per pair $4.00

WOMEN'S WHITE CANVAS OXFORDS, blucher cut, Cuban heel, turn sole, per pair $3.50

WOMEN'S WHITE CANVAS GIBSON TIE, Blucher cut, canvas covered heels, (Cuban heel) per pair $4.00

WOMEN'S WHITE CANVAS PUMPS, welted sole, covered heel, Cuban cast last, per pair $4.00

WOMEN'S WHITE CANVAS PUMPS, turn sole, covered heel, Cuban cast last, per pair $4.00

WOMEN'S KID OXFORDS, patent tip, medium heel, medium sole per pair $3.00

WOMEN'S GUN METAL BUTTON OXFORD, welted sole, military heel, per pair $4.00

WOMEN'S PATENT COLT, DULL KID TOP, button Oxford, welt sole, Cuban heel, per pair $5.00

WOMEN'S PATENT COLT, DULL KID, Blucher cut Oxfords, welt sole, military heel, per pair $4.50

WOMEN'S GIBSON TIE PATENT COLT(new Cuban heel, welt sole, opera toe, a new creation in style, per pair $5.00

WOMEN'S PATENT KID OXFORD TIE, military heel, light sole, dull kid back, blucher cut, per pair $3.50

WOMEN'S VICI KID OXFORD TIE, welt sole, patent heel, per pair $3.50

WOMEN'S PATENT TIP, welt sole, Blucher cut, specially made low heel, per pair $3.50

The Newest and Daintiest Designs Are Seen in the Ladies' New White Wear, Same High Qualities, Same Low Prices, and These in Spite of Advanced Market Prices in Cotton.

Every Man Who Claims to be Well Dressed Should Note the Latest in White Coat Shirts from the Well Dressed Circles of the World! Stiff Bosom Print Shirts in 15 or 18 Designs

Spring In Victoria, 1907

(With apologies to The Colonist vide the issue of Wednesday last).

VISITORS acclaim the City of Victoria Beautiful, its position and surroundings, yet there is one detriment which must be removed this Spring by such citizens who respect and take an interest in their Capital City and Individual Homes—The Painting of Shabby Houses! There is no excuse why such a large percentage of the houses in this City should be denied a new garment at least once a year!—now that the Great Store contracts for House Painting and Decorating. We give you the best skilled work for exteriors or interiors, the best materials and the lowest charges. Now is the Time. Welcome the beautiful Spring and Summer with bright, smiling exteriors to your homes, at the same time perfecting "The City Beautiful," as good citizens! Do not permit deterioration and decay to creep upon your properties.

DAVID SPENCER, LIMITED