

From the Mining Camps

We hear such exaggerated stories of the rigor of a Klondike winter that it is well to hear a lady's testimony. Miss Fenton says: "Speaking from an experience up to this mid-winter date, and without prejudice, my previous assertion may be confirmed that the Yukon winter is not one whit more formidable than that of Quebec, and in the matter of absence of wind, preferable to the latter."

We quote the above from a contemporary. We may add that a trip to the Klondike is now a comparative holiday outing. There are stations every 15 miles between Skagway and Dawson, where even good "mountain dew" is obtainable, to say nothing of other creature comforts. Yes, its rather costly, but what of that; the gold is plentiful and we don't consider details such as that.

Mr. Ogilvie is proving a wise administrator and things generally are in better shape always than previous.

The general opinion is that at least from 15 to \$20,000,000 will be sent out this season.

At the annual meeting held on March 3rd at Edinburgh of the Scottish Colonial Goldfields, Ltd., the directors report showed a balance of £202 on profit and loss account, and a sum of £932 of unpaid directors' fees. The Chairman stated that until the Company was placed on a dividend paying basis the directors would not draw more than half fees.

The claims in which this Company is interested are in the Slocan and comprise 20 properties or 554 acres. The Company do not appear to have done very much development, though the mineral showing is excellent and promise on working to soon rank at a dividend payer.

The Alaska Goldfields Ltd., have announced an interim dividend of 10 per cent. free of income tax.

The Klondike and N. W. Territories Exploration Company are we understand about to amalgamate with the British Columbia Mineral Properties Limited. The new Company will be registered with a capital of £120,000 in 240,000 shares of 10s. each.

Golden River, Quesnelle, the third ordinary general meeting of this Company was held at Winchester House last Monday. The late B. C. Agent in London (Hon. Forbes Vernon) in the chair. It was proposed to issue mortgage debenture bonds for £20,000, and also to reduce the capital of the Company from £350,000 to £164,750. Unfortunately this Company seems to have no other alternative other than reconstruction.

Read the prospectus of the "Grand Forks of Bonanza Gold Mining Co., Ltd.," Klondike. We believe the public will commend the lines on which it is placed before them. In that respect

it stands, and we say it advisedly:—superior to anything yet offered for public subscription. Either in the Klondike or British Columbia. The strong point is the vendor does not receive a cent in cash. The full purchase consideration being in shares of the Company, the vendor also paying all expenses connected with the issue. The property is situated on Bonanza, Hunker, Little Skookum, Quartz and Dominion Creeks and has been well prospected and reported on most favorably. The Board is a strong one, and that confirms the bona fides of the proposition.

BOUNDARY.

The final payment on the Fontenoy in Camp McKinney was made in Greenwood last week. The Fontenoy Gold Mining & Milling Company starts with a capital of \$1,000 and is backed by the Dunsmuir of Victoria, James Dunsmuir having secured a controlling interest. Associated with him are C. E. Pooley and B. J. Perry, Phil. J. Hickey, J. F. Reddy, J. D. Farrell and C. P. Chamberlain. A plant has been ordered and development of the property will be pushed with vigor.

It is reported that the Snowshoe mine in the Greenwood camp has been bonded. This time the price is set at \$70,000. Ten per cent. was paid down. The Snowshoe lies adjacent to the Sternwinder on one side, the Rawhide on the other, and the Old Ironsides in front.

Considerable money was spent by the former owners in its development. This work consists of an incline shaft sunk to a depth of 170 feet. At the 70-foot level a crosscut runs 38 feet in ore. At the 120-foot level, 175 feet of work was done in crosscutting to the vein and in drifting. The ore is a copper pyrite in a mixed gangue of calcite, with some specularite and iron pyrites. An average value of the ore in these workings gave 14.6 per cent. copper, 80 ounces in silver and \$10 to \$11 in gold.

COAST.

The first ore shipped from the Silver Tip mine, Davis Bay, was brought down by the steamer Coquitlam yesterday. It will be sent over to the Everett smelter to-morrow very likely. This initial shipment will, it is understood, be followed by one every week. Shipments of ore from the Douglas Pine will be made next week. The ore from the Silver Tip is a mixture of copper and gold. The fact that coast mines are beginning to ship ore is expected to have a decidedly favorable effect on values.

FERNIE.

Word has been received that the Crow's Nest Coal Company has secured the contract to supply the British fleet at Esquimalt with coal for the present year. The amount of consumption is not less than 3,000 tons per month, and some of the vessels, when leaving the station for some other, carry away with them more than that for one trip.

R. E. Gosnell, of Victoria, returned to Rosland on Saturday from an extended trip through the Boundary country, having visited all the mining camps in that district. He stated that reports from there as to the activity existing in mining circles have not been exaggerated. Greenwood is the most lively at present, from 20 to 25 arriving there daily by stage. A great many of these are looking for business investments, professional openings and employment, but a number are capitalists and representatives of capital, and the consummation of "deals" is of almost daily occurrence.

Camp McKinney properties are at present very much in demand, and that camp is likely to experience a very decided impetus this coming season. Townsiting is one of the industries occupying considerable attention, and building will be active.

Midway is also anticipating a revival of business. Progress there has been delayed by the lack of lumber for building. Attention, too, is being directed to the west fork, where there is likely to be a promising camp. Grand Forks and Columbia talk jubilantly about the outlook, and confidence has been increased by one or two strikes in rich free milling ore, the ore being almost identical with that of the celebrated Republic mine.

The real rush, however, will not take place for a month or six weeks yet. The stage roads are breaking up and the difficulty of transportation will be greatly increased for a time. At present there is neither good wheeling nor good sleighing, and much delay may be anticipated until the roads dry up. There is a tremendous amount of freight going in, and the freight wagons are cutting up the roads very badly. The stage lines have all increased their rates.

In Greenwood building is very active and rents are going up in consequence of the demand. Numerous transfers of real estate are taking place, and prices, already high, are steadily going up. The Vernon & Nelson Telephone Company is installing a local telephone system, and is putting in long distance instruments in each case. It is understood, however, that the C. P. R. Telegraph Company will have its line into Greenwood in two months' time, when the difficulties of communication now experienced will be overcome.

Regarding the general outlook for the Boundary country, Mr. Gosnell said it was unnecessary to speak at any length, as the extent and value of the ore bodies assured beyond any doubt its permanence and prosperity. In his opinion the movement will rapidly extend and important development continue through the Similkameen country, and as far as Hope.

IN CAMP MCKINNEY.

The most encouraging reports continue to reach the Coast from Camp McKinney. The McKinney Mining & Milling Company, of Vancouver, B. C., is now working 10 men. Commodious bunk and boarding houses have been erected for the men, as also blacksmith shop and shaft house. The development consists of sinking a main working shaft, that has already reached a depth of 20-odd feet. The showing is one of