

CARIBOO CREEK.

This district of the Province is rapidly coming to the front as a richly promising mineral region of West Kootenay, which will, as many confidently believe, shortly enter into fully equal competition with Rossland as a precious metal producer. The country is of solid formation, with wide ledges, carrying good values in silver and gold, and now that development is proceeding satisfactorily on a number of the properties, the district—of which Burton City is becoming the busy centre—promises shortly to make a very big and permanent advance. Among the properties now being opened up and showing well are the Columbia-Cariboo Gold Mining Co., Black Bess, Ocean Wave, Trio, Silver Queen, Hallstone, Gibraltar, Promitor, Eureka and others. The Columbia-Cariboo is about seven miles from Burton by wagon road and trail and on the mine claims is, according to a report furnished by the consulting engineer, a well defined ledge of rose quartz eight feet in width, traceable through both properties for a distance of 3,050 feet, carrying galena and running high in gold from the very surface. A shaft has been sunk on the ledge over 40 feet, the width of the ledge being maintained, but at that depth the lode improves considerably in gold. Open cuts have been made right along the outcrop, proving the width of the vein very regular. The vein is a true fissure and a strong one. The ledge crosses the country stratification at right angles, and a tunnel is being driven to intersect the ledge at 125 feet. About 75 feet have been driven, and further 100 feet will cut the ledge, and then drifting east and west on the ledge will be commenced and connection made with the shaft. The office of the company will be removed to Vancouver and work be prosecuted vigorously, both sinking and tunnelling. This property is believed to be one of the best in West Kootenay, the width permanent and the values large. When the tunnel is connected every ton of rock taken out will be payable, there being no necessity to work anything outside actual quartz. The stratification of the country rock, which is granite and lime, runs north and south and the ledge east and west.

Little work has yet been done on the Black Bess, the vein of which is mainly ore and steel galena, in respect of which assays give good value. It is hoped to interest English capital in the mine and prove the value of it thoroughly by tunnelling. The Black Bess stands at an elevation of 7,000 feet at a distance of two miles from Burton. The Trio property consists of six claims, through two of which a rich quartz ledge, carrying gold below, runs. Ten men are here at work and the shaft is down 40 feet. As in the case of the Black Bess, the facilities are excellent for rawhiding. Recent

Mixwell group, the Hallstone, the Gibraltar and Promitor are other promising claims on Cariboo Creek, as to the prospects of and progress on which the Mining Critic hopes to comment in some detail in a later issue.

Sneaking generally of Cariboo Creek it may be stated on expert authority that the silver deposits of the Slocan in general also pass through the Creek country, though the country rock is changed from granite to shale. Cariboo Creek has, however, the advantage of carrying considerably more gold in association with its silver than is the case of the Slocan. The district can be comfortably reached by the C. P. R. via Revelstoke and then by the steamer making for Trail.

CLONDYKE DELIRIUM.

The following from the Clondyke Lyre is by no means a bad skit:

"Our esteemed townsman, Bud Gravel, placed upon our desk yesterday a handsomely shaped nugget. It weighed 27 pounds. We have credited him with three months' subscription to the Lyre. We are pleased to see that Mr. Gravel, who is one of our best citizens, is doing well. He is one of a syndicate who expects to buy a quart of whiskey on Saturday night.

The high wind yesterday raised considerable dust. Jake Luckenbill, who was out on the El Dorado road with his team, says he was nearly blinded by it. When he came home he coughed up \$73.89. One of our greatest needs is street sprinkling.

Dawson Pettibone has finished his now well in the rear of his kitchen. It now has eleven feet of ice water in it, and he has washed out over \$85,000 in dust from the dirt taken out.

The Widow Larkin yesterday met with a misfortune which will, we are sure, call forth the sympathy of the public. During the heavy rainstorm in the afternoon a regular torrent rushed down the gully back of her house and washed so much gold dust into her pig sty that the pig was smothered. A subscription has been started for her benefit.

While Ike Sigman, the esteemed proprietor of the Big Strike saloon, was fishing in the river yesterday his boat struck a snag. It turned out to be a 600 pound nugget. He will have it taken out and will use it as a horse block in front of his place. Ike is always bound to have the best that is going.

Large numbers of dead catfish are seen floating in the river every day. When examined it is found that every one of them has from six to eight ounces of gold dust in its stomach. This carelessness in allowing loose gold to escape into the river will ruin the fishing if not stopped.

Bill Jacobs made a pretty good strike on the Little Juniper this week. He

carry, he closed up the hole and has staked another claim further up the creek.

Aleck Cameron put a new fireplace in his cabin this week, but he will now have to build another one. After he had completed it he built a roaring fire, but there was so much metal in the stone that it melted and ran all over the floor. He now has a gold plated floor, but no fireplace.

There was a bull movement in dog meat yesterday, the price closing at 88 cents above the opening figure. It is supposed to be due entirely to professional speculation.

PAVED WITH GOLD.

Some excitement has been caused by the discovery that five of Winnipeg's streets recently paved have a top dressing of gold bearing quartz. Mr. Henry, a mining expert, and his brother, made the discovery. The rock is from Keewatin. Samples will be exhibited at the Toronto and Montreal fairs. Parties have gone to the quarry and assays will be announced.

GILDED INVITATIONS.

The eyes of the mining world are turned to the northern portion of British Columbia. Lillooet, Cassiar, Omineca, Cariboo and Peace River districts are being favorably compared with Clondyke and Stewart rivers, and these vast regions, the greater part of which are yet unexplored, like gilded invitations before prospectors. There can be no hesitation therefore in saying that these regions will hereafter occupy a greater portion of attention and receive the appreciation of which their almost inexhaustible wealth in gold makes them worthy.

A VALUABLE INVENTION.

The Patterson Dry Mineral Magnetic Separator and Gold Extraction Co., of Ontario, Limited, have placed on the market a very valuable invention. This is a machine which separates ores of very diverse characters without the need of water. It weighs about 2,000 pounds and is, therefore, easily conveyed in sections to any locality. It only requires about a 2-horse power, and though simple in construction, saves the gold, including rusty and light gold, from dirt, iron, sand, etc., and the magnetic iron by itself as a by-product.

Is the B. C. Government doing anything? Has it under consideration, either of its own or anybody else's initiation, any scheme of practical nature to meet this vexed question of communication, which will tend to a solution of the difficulty, and help to retain to British Columbia the innumerable advantages pertaining to the recent discoveries up north? If it has the public would