

CARIBOO CREEK, SLOCAN MINING DISTRICT

A considerable amount activity is being displayed throughout this district and prospectors are coming in good numbers. Several of the claims are now working and the prospects warrant the expectation that during the next few months capital will be attracted from many parts of the world. Burton City, the point of landing is assuming some pretensions of becoming an important mining centre, several buildings being in the course of erection in anticipation of the increased population and locations in this townsite are realizing good figures.

The Columbia Cariboo Co. are pushing ahead with their tunnel, which will, at an early date, intersect the lode at 125 feet depth, when the connection will be made with the shaft which is down about forty feet in solid quartz, eight feet wide, carrying gold, silver and lead, with a value of about \$40 to the ton. Several open cuttings have been made exposing the lode in various parts of the property. The lode crosses the stratification at right angles and is traceable through the two properties belonging to the Company. It is a true fissure and varies but little for hundreds of feet where exposed, being eight feet wide, and a nice payable quartz carrying payable mineral from the very grass. Now that the snow has disappeared and a waggon road is being built, this property will soon become well known, especially amongst the mining community, as the amount of ore in sight when connection takes place in the shaft and tunnel will be very considerable. This property, which is under the superintendence of Capt. McLean, will be more heard of in the near future.

The Silver Queen group, known as Maxwell's, have started work with a gang of men and intend pushing development without delay. This property is also well known on account of its richness in gold and silver. From the very capping assays giving results in the hundreds, the lode on the property, which is of considerable width is exposed. The little work done so far indicates this property is also going to be one of the coming dividend payers. In places the vein matter exceeds 14 feet which will give nearly \$100 to the ton right across the face in silver and gold, but a streak of solid ore nearly three feet wide of this vein matter which is in the nature of a steel galena, assays about \$200. There is a promising future before this Company.

The Winnipeg Eureka has suspended work owing to the snowslides, but will resume at an early date. Success has not favored the Company so far, for the reason that too many tunnels have been driven in various places, all to no purpose; in fact, it has been a case of dodging from here and there in order to get a big body of payable ore with ten

or twenty feet of driving. Notwithstanding, there is a good showing on the property, and systematically worked, will come to the front, as the ore is of high grade where exposed; but the necessity is obvious that concentration of work is the only possible means of intersecting the lode which runs through the property.

The Promotora is another valuable property in bad hands—litigation and disputing obstructing the work on the claim. Ore shipped from this property with all difficulties to contend with gave a net return of about \$50 after paying considerable expenses in transportation. It is to be hoped that development work will shortly be resumed, as there is an amount of encouragement in the continuation of the ore vein and the high prospects obtainable both in silver and gold warrants, all necessary expenditure in opening it up upon a permanent working basis.

Several other properties will shortly start work and there is no question as to 90 per cent. of properties worked upon a systematical basis and under the superintendence of competent mining men will give a good account of their merits. The "Milly Mac" group should not be forgotten. The veins running through this group give high values and as the bodies are of great width with every show of continuation and permanency.

Several speculators and gentlemen of influence from Vancouver and other places have been acquiring population by actual purchase and others are being bonded at good figures.

KAMLOOPS.

An Old Story, a New Camp, and a Newer Word.

[Communicated.]

Some ten years or more ago, as a reservoir was being dug for Kamloops water supply, it occurred to one or two residents that gold might be found in the process. The foreman of the work concurred with this idea, and thought it probable, when they had reached bed-rock, that auriferous deposits would be found. When this interesting stage was "got down to," the goldseekers sacked up some of the dirt and took it secretly to the river to wash out. They panned out not only colors, but glittering dust in vastly paying quantity. Pale and breathless they rushed to the recording office, took out licenses, and let one or two particular "pals" in on the scheme. The excitement was tense and intense. Staking out was done in solemn silence and with dexterous dispatch. At nightfall, however, one of the initiated got alcoholically confidential and gave the "snap" away. Very soon, and throughout the night, the whole hillside behind the town was alive with lanterns borne by citizens, who, Diogenes-like, were looking, not for one honest man, but for good yellow gold. Next morning two distinct roars rent the sky above Kamloops—one of prolonged laughter, and

one of pronounced indignation from the victimized. The foreman of the work had "salted" the dirt by spilling some gold dust in it as it was sacked. He kept quiet for several days subsequent, and the incident is now only a memory, and to some not a pleasant one.

To-day, however, Kamloops contains the promise of becoming one of the best mining camps in British Columbia and one of the biggest camps in the world. Of course there are diverse opinions about this; but the consensus of testimony from mining men and experts who have visited the camp since last autumn is, that its possibilities are great and its probabilities large. It is not, however, a poor man's camp, and requires extensive capital to develop. Over one thousand claims have been recorded, of which a fair percentage have wonderfully good indications. Assessment work has been done on a number of claims, and two—the Python and the Iron Mask—have reached a shipping stage. This state was, in fact, arrived at last year; but, for some reasons, nothing further had been done with them up to the end of May. A "fillip" has been given to the camp by the bonding of the Iron Cap to Patsy Clarke of War Eagle fame. This should prove a good card. If some of the claim-holders will come off the high-prices, and bond their claims at reasonable rates to developing companies, there is no apparent reason why Kamloops should not rank as one of the most important mining centres in British Columbia. It is advantageously placed either for shipping or smelting purposes, and is climatically a miners' Mecca.

Kamloops, with Ireland, has the honor of being the birthplace of a new verb. It happened in this wise: A claim was struck and given the name of the Lucky Strike, which indeed it was and is. It was bonded to a Mr. Cobblestick for five hundred dollars down, and a considerable sum to be paid after work was done. Being, it is said, disappointed at not securing surrounding claims at his own figures, Mr. Cobblestick refuses to develop the Lucky Strike, and will let it remain idle, paying the assessment without development. As this is one of the most promising prospects in the whole camp, the mining population is somewhat indignant, and a hope is frequently expressed that no more claims will be "cobbledicked." Hence the word, which in process of time may take classic rank with "boycott."

MACK.

Work has been started on a reservoir on Quartz Creek to supply Ymir with water. A long flume will have to be constructed from the dam to the city. The work is being done by a company of Victoria and Rossland men, who have also, it is said, undertaken the installation of an electric light plant. The electric light is to supply the whole town. The water from Quartz creek is unequalled for purity and sweetness.