British Columbia.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

Mr. E. Hutcherson, the Conservative candidate for Westminster district, who was taken ill at Maple Ridge, the other day, has been conveyed to his home at Ladner with all the symptoms of typhoid fever.

Fisheries Inspector McNab has returned from the upper country, where he has been spending a few days selecting a site for one of the new hatcheries to be built by the Dominion government. Mr. McNab was fortunate in being able to find a suitable location, adjacent to the railway on the shore of Shuswap lake, and where the water is particularly pure and clear and free from any traces of alkali.

Reports from various parts of the district seem to indicate that the fruit crop this year will be unusually heavy. The cold weather we have experienced of late has been a benefit rather than otherwise to the trees, as the fruit which is now well set, is not likely to suffer from late frost. In the city orchards, cherries, plums, and pears promise an enormous yield, and the apple crop will also be good.—Columbian.

The spring salmon run has slacked off considerably the past week, last night's operation being far from encouraging. A number of the fishermen have hauled out their nets temporarily.

The construction of a new sluice chamber across the dyke at the New Westminster corner of the Lulu island reserve is progressing satisfactorily. The chamber is 40 feet long, 5½ feet wide, and 3 feet high, made of 3-inch planks, and bent timbers 14 by 10 inches.

REVELSTOKE.

Kootenay Mail.

The necessity of a decent court room was once more made painfully apparent at last session of county court.

A letter posted at Trout Lake on the 15th of April reached Vancouver May 5th: twenty days in transit, and a man lost a job by it.

H. McPherson, of the Great Northern lead is just starting in upon a new level. They are already in 64 feet with two weeks' work, three men working.

Some wanton and cowardly person or persons are taking advantage of the darkness of night to destroy and deface the property of citizens. On Wednesday night Mr. Peterson's trees were broken, and the walls of the Columbia house, which had just been painted, defaced. The night before that a door was broken, and earlier still the lights in a window of Jas. McMahon's place were everyone smashed.

QUESNELLE.

B. C. Mining Journal.

Work on the mines has now commenced in earnest and every day sees pack trains and wagons loaded with miners' supplies leaving Quesnelle. Idle men are not to be found about here and many a man has had two or three good jobs offered to him in the same day. Wages are rising slightly, and will, no doubt, soon be at their proper level.

The trees are budding and new grass shooting up. Spring is with us and the farmers are taking all the work possible out of men and horses, for the season is late and there is a large population to feed. There is no doubt at all that a large crop this year will be as good as a gold mine.

The shaft on Mr. Law's claim was sunk 255 feet, when the miners struck rim rock, just above which was a stratum of blue cement bearing gold and copper. This, I am told, is a sure sign of gold on the bedrock, and Mr. Law is well pleased with the prospects. A drift is being run from the bottom of the shaft for 200 feet and then another shaft will be sunk to bedrock, probably about 220 feet deep. The claim has just been surveyed and staked off by the local surveyor and covers an area of 4000 acres. A large stream, Baker creek, runs through the middle of the claim.

Messrs. Morrison and Ferguson, who went up to the Peace river last fall, are returning to Quesnelle last week from Fort George. Mr. Morrison was coming down the river in a canoe and when seen above the canon to lash a raft of logs to his canoe. Last Friday the canoe passed Quesnelle side up and it is feared that Morrison must have been upset in passing the canon.

FORT STEELE.

Fort Steele Prospector.

A. McKenzie Leitch has gone to Butte, Mont., to arrange for the opening up of a copper proposition on Bull river.

Harry O'Donaghee has made a discovery and located it, which he thinks is the best in the district. The ore is a gray copper.

It is rumored that the Neosho mine is bonded.

Judd Langley is doing the assessment work on the Empire, a property belonging to a Macleod syndicate.

The manager takes pleasure in announcing to the readers of the Prospector, and its many friends, that in a short time he will publish the paper in the regular form of an up to date paper, an order having been placed for a new plant suitable for all kinds of printing, which is expected to arrive in about five weeks.

The preparatory work on the Nip and Tuck is being pushed forward as fast as possible, and everything will be in readiness for piping as soon as the water rises.

The Invicta Company have had their ditches cleaned out and are getting their property in good shape for work. We understand that the iron piping has been shipped, and will be pushed forward to Wild Horse creek without delay.

We learn, from good authority, that the Upper Columbia Navigation Company intend running the Gwendoline as far as Island Pond on the Kootenay river; from there a road will be opened to Canal Flat, and in this way a large proportion of the ore from the North Star mine will be carried to Golden, where it will be smelted.

The company holding the bond on the Dible property are still engaged in running a tunnel to strike the Last Chance lead. They are in 240 feet, and in running this distance have cut several leads one to three feet in width that has a rich pay streak a foot wide; another is 15 feet in width.

We learn that eight applications have been made, by different parties, for the leasing of placer ground on what is known as Palmer's bar. It has been known for many years that good pay could be found on the bar, but there was but very little water that was available, and not enough for extensive working. The applicants have applied for a half mile each of bar diggings, and intend to pool their interests and form a company to work the several claims. Water will be brought to the diggings by a ditch for a distance of five miles through a low pass from the Moyea river.

BARKERVILLE.

B. C. Mining Journal.

Mr. Marsh has arrived from Victoria and commenced active operations on the Black Jack quartz mine to-day.

A strong local syndicate has control of four or five miles of ground on lower Antler creek, with immense water privileges, the idea being to work it as a hydraulic proposition. Portions of this ground were difted in the early days and paid $8 per day to the man.

Work on the drain tunnel of the Cariboo Gold Fields, Ld., has been suspended until the spring freshet is over.

STANLEY.

B. C. Mining Journal.

The principal event of interest of late to the mining community in and around Barkerville and Stanley, was the sale last week by the gold commissioner at public auction of the real estate claims on which taxes imposed in 1893 had not been paid up. The claims on which the principal interest at the sale was centered, and the bidding the stiffest were the Amalgamated, Bay State and the Wafer Lily forming a group occupying all of the Lightning creek valley between the Eleven of England and Gladstone claims. These three claims, together with the Eleven of England, have been united under one company and form a solid block nearly a mile in length and of as promising a piece of alluvial as could be found anywhere. The cost of opening this claim will be trifling compared with the old claims above, as there is a shaft sunk in bedrock over 100 feet deep on the lower line from which some prospecting was being done and which could be tapped 80 feet from the surface with about 1,700 feet of a new drain.

GOLDEN.

Golden Era.

Mr. Bostock held a meeting in the Alexander Hall on Thursday night at which there were a large number of electors present. A resolution was put to the meeting that Mr. Bostock be nominated as candidate for this riding in the coming Dominion elections. It was carried—with the exception of two persons—unanimously. Mr. Bostock held a meeting at Donald last night.

This week has seen another shipment of silver ore from East Kootenay via Golden. It was some of the product of the Vermont Creek and Giant mines. The former is owned by Captain Armstrong and the latter by Mr. McNeish, both of this town. The difficulties through which these gentlemen have had to pass in accomplishing this end have been many. The Vermont Creek mine lies 18 to 20 miles back in the depths of the mountains, alike hidden and inaccessible to the majority, to which, however, there has been constructed a sleigh road, and the ore was mined last fall and brought down to the Columbia river on sleighs. Of course the expense attached to this mode of shipment is enormous, and if the mine returns a margin in this crude way of operating it, what would be the returns if a railway or even a good wagon road were constructed to it. Mr. McNeish, too, has been laboring under like difficulties, but the Giant mine is not situated so far from navigable waters which makes it somewhat easier to handle.

ASHCROFT.

B. C. Mining Journal.

Four men from Idaho passed a day or two this week in Ashcroft and then pushed on with their horses and wagon for Cariboo. They had been sixteen days on the road from Grafton, Idaho.

Captain Martley of the Grange is reported as seriously ill.

Mr Thompson, of Calgary, who is interested with Mr. Marsh in quartz mining near Barkerville, started up the road on a bicycle Tuesday morning. Mr. Thompson thinks the outlook for quartz mining in Cariboo is good and that this season will serve to convince the unbelievers that there are valuable quartz mines in Cariboo.

W. H. Boyd, of the Occidental hotel, Quesnelle, rode down to Ashcroft on his wheel and made the 220 miles in a little over four days. Mr. Boyd says Quesnelle is prosperous and lively. Fry and Johnson are working 36 men, Law 13, Fader 12, and several hydraulic companies are doing good work, the two large dredgers soon to begin work, and the steamboat for which lumber is now being cut, will be in operation by July 1st. Government lots that were withdrawn from the market should be placed on sale and people be given a chance to build houses. The Occidental hotel is crowded to its fullest capacity. Baker's Creek, opposite Quesnelle, is located for 12 or 15 miles by men working or watching the operations of Mr. C. F. Law. Evidently the men have faith in the outcome of operations there.

The Lightning Creek Gold Gravel and Drainage Co., Ltd., has through its agent, F. S. Reynolds, made arrangements with a Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois syndicate, subject to the report of their expert,, who leaves Chicago May 20th to examine and report on the properties, as will, if favorably reported on, result in work on a large scale being inaugurated on this famous old creek this season. Many millions have been taken out of Lightning creek since '61, and it is the belief of all familiar with the ground that with drainage such as this company propose to make for the old bed of the creek many more will be taken from the ground, which under the present conditions can not be worked on account of water, but which can be drained with a tunnel from 3,000 5,000 feet long. The company is incorporated for $1,000,000, and numbers among its lease holders some of the old timers and solid business men of this section.

Lieut.-Col. Wright, of Ottawa, spent a few days in Ashcroft this week, making arrangements for his trip to the mines of Omineca, where he will soon leave for. The company he represents, the 43rd Mining & Milling Company, of Ottawa, have several hundred acres of placer ground on Slate and Manson creeks, these creeks being about 350 miles northwest of Quesnelle, or 570 miles from Ashcroft. The company have also several leases to several creek beds that are known to be very rich. Mr. Valeau, Doc Holloway, and three or four others are now on their way from Port Simpson across to the ground and will have work well started by the time the colonel gets in with supplies, of which he is taking in a large supply, also a saw mill and mining tools, a hydraulic elevator, etc., in all about 30 tons, all of which will be packed in from Quesnelle. About 15 men will be taken in to assist those already to open up the ground. The four months spent by the colonel and his party last season on the company's ground, has thoroughly convinced them of the richness of the ground and its practicability as a hydraulic elevator proposition.

NANAIMO.

Nanaimo, May 13.—It is quite evident, by the profuse distribution of circulars calling for a meeting of Conservatives on Thursday night, that the one held on Monday night was not a success. A man who was there stated that there were only 12 in attendance. However, very few can be expected at the next meeting, as it is to be held in the Johnston block. Meanwhile everything is working favorably for the Liberals, and at a meeting recently held arrangements were completed for the holding of 22 meetings throughout the constituency.

The council have decided to tax persons renting bicycles at the same rate as paid by the livery stables.

OKANAGAN MISSION.

Okanagan Mission, May 1.—We have had considerable rain this month and everything looks bright for the farmer. The weather though has been very cool so far, and consequently the growth is not quite so forward as in some years.

The Morrow Bros. are gravelling the public road leading from Kelowna, and a good permanent road will be a great benefit there, as hitherto in the spring and fall the road has been anything but good.

Political talk is the chief theme in conversation these days. Both parties have committees organized—Mara's being formed quite recently. Some of the Conservatives are rather luke-warm and others will vote opposition. Bostock has a strong hold on the electors of Okanagan, as polling day will show. The using of the voter's list of 1894 instead of taking the present provincial list is a blunder some one will have to answer for. The enlarging of our constituency seems another blunder—the Yale-Kootenay-Cariboo constituency must be the largest in the Dominion, and it must with the influx of people to Kootenay have the largest population by far.

QUESNELLE FORKS.

Quesnelle Forks, May 7.—Changing to have a day to myself and it being a fair morning I two days ago made an outing up North Fork to Spanish creek to see and learn something of what is doing. Starting from "The Forks," the disturbing hand of man is visable on every side. The vast benches and flats were never turned over and washed, as they have been in years gone by, without someone getting "good pay." Kangaroo creek bridge was the first halt, and there is seen the evidence of sanguine hopes, either blighted or only deferred—a large water-wheel and extensive fluming indicate a considerable amount of money or labor spent, and a casual inspection shows that a deep shaft was sunk in anticipation of reaching bedrock near where the creek empties into the river, but inflow of water and inadequate pumping appliances seem to have checked the enterprise, although there is no doubt something rich is in store for a little further outlay of money and work. This creek was found to be very rich in the old days. It is further up this creek that Theo. Thormalin has been driving a tunnel in search of the old channel. He has been working almost the entire time alone for five or six winters, and has run in 1100 or 1200 feet with fair promise of success. A more notable case of lonely diligence with patience and perseverance can rarely be witnessed.

Leaving the bridge one comes to the what I may call diabolical slide, because the trail is full of dangers. In some places the road is almost filled up with sliding shale, gravel and slum, not infrequently accompanied with a quickly rolling rock or boulder. The pedestrian has to be sharply on the lookout. The government have two men shovelling the road out. The head or hand that designed a main trail in such a position should be relieved from further duty.

Journeying on and casting an eye towards the river, one there sees the Chinamen hard at work poaching for gold. Cape horn is the next point of interest, but learning that Mr. Pierson was not at the camp and men were practically laid off work on account of rising waters, I did not go down to the work, but from the trail may be seen the evidences of a large undertaking in diverting the course of the river. I will sometime soon pay a special visit to these works and make the subject one for a more extended report.

The next ground pointed out is said to be held by a Seattle company and is situated about opposite where the old Mitchell's bridge once stood, but whether the prospects so far made will warrant anything like immediate operations I was unable to learn.

On leaving the main Keithley trail and branching off to the right for Spanish creek trail, a comfortable looking house is presented to view, occupied by a Chinaman who has a ranch on the flat. Presently one comes to the brow of the hill where the trail runs zig-zag down to the lower flats. Casting an eye over these lower flats towards the river one cannot but be astonished to see the acres and acres of ground which has and is being worked by Chinamen. If the old proverb is true, "the hand of the diligent maketh rich," somebody is surely rich as a result of what may be seen on every hand. Trudging along on the very tiring road one soon observes on the left a nice patch of clear land, a sort of oases, and is again told that it is a Chinaman's ranch. Surely these are a favored people in this district, because I have heard many Europeans say they had been looking for patches of ground to cultivate and so save a little of the expenses of living, but practically all that is available for such purposes is held by Chinamen; how they hold it, or whether they pay anything no one can find out here.

A little further on is the bridge which was erected by the government a few years ago, and it is a highly creditable structure—but what a place to build a bridge! It is almost inapproachable, and one cannot but wonder what influence caused it to be placed there, more especially as I am told that when the government appropriation was voted for a second bridge on this river it was to be at Spanish creek, and there it unquestionably ought to have been to meet the requirements of the district. I guess some one has a reason why.

The Victoria Consolidated Hydraulic Mining Co.'s camp and offices are next arrived at, and look very comfortable. A little beyond, but near by, their water pipes cross the trail, and are carried over the river on a bridge to Keithley point, where the monitor is placed. I did not have the good fortune to find them piping, as I had hoped. They had had ha the water on a few day before, but were apparently busy rearranging and constructing sluices or flumes. Both Mr. Brigham and Mr. Plewman were across the river on the works, so I had not the pleasure of a chat as to what they contemplated, but judging from appearances they are laying out for pretty extensive operations this season.

Being now on the south side of the river, James Meather's is the next place in working, where he holds, I am informed, under a lease for hydraulic working but is utilizng it as a drifting claim. He is said to be making good pay. His house was locked up so I did not see him. Beyond this is a Chinaman's cabin and there are extensive Chinese workings all around—gold, gold, everywhere, is the idea! Now reaching Spanish creek we cross to find the Quesnelle Canal and Hydraulic Mining Co.'s men at work building a new house and preparing for active work in tunnelling and other development and prospecting work.

Having ascertained that I could share the corner of a blanket and tent, I determined to stay the night, and have to thank them for their kind hospitality. In fossicking round with pan and shovel I got splendid prospects, and would conclude that this company have undoubtedly a fine rich property for any mode of work. For hydraulicing it must rank high. This ground is situate at the junction of Spanish creek and the North Fork of the Quesnelle river. Higher up the creek C. O'Neil and Hugh McGregor were hard at work on what is called the Moore claim, and kindly showed me through their workings. They are working away in about 500 or 600 feet from the light of day, and their tunnel is a fine piece of work, indicating great skill in the operation. They have certainly got splendid ground and have taken out as far as two ounces of gold to the set, at about 6 or 7 feet above bedrock, but their general working will yield from half an ounce to one and a half ounces to the set. As a hydraulic proposition this should be very valuable, because in addition to "stake" or which they are working two other "pay streaks" in the gravels above are known to exist, and could be easily utilized at the same time, thus making a return for what is sometimes called "top dirt." There should be no difficulty in getting water from the creek, in fact they hold a water grant of 1,500 miners' inches from it.

Having accomplished this much I hastily returned home, tired, but so much pleased with my trip that I have promised myself that it shall not be the last excursion, if time and opportunity offer, to wander in other directions of this very interesting district.

KASLO.

Nelson Tribune.

Walter A. Heap of Sandon and F. A. Heap have deeded a one-quarter interest in the Albion mineral claim to J. M. Moore of Spokane.

J. J. Kingsmill, a prominent queen's counsel of Toronto, has been in the city during the week and left for the hills on Wednesday last. He, in connection with W. C. Clewett, another Torontonian, has agreed with Charles E. Race, who has an option of purchase on the Hera, Heba, and Opporto mineral claims, to form a company for the purpose of developing those properties. The capital stock of the company is fixed at $50,000, of which the promoters will have a controlling interest, the vendor received the remainder fully paid up.

The land commissioner of the Kaslo & Slocan Railway Company is organizing survey parties for the purpose of surveying lands which the company has selected in the Lardo-Duncan country. A timber cruiser has already gone up to arrange for camps and transportation.

NAKUSP.

On Saturday last the town had two narrow escapes from fire. About 10 in the morning the roof of the Madden House was discovered to be on fire, caused by the stovepipe. A few pails of water and an axe soon settled it, leaving some drenched clothing and a hole in the roof.

About 4 p.m. a very high wind was blowing from the south, when a call of fire came from the Leland House. This one was also on the roof, caused by a long stovepipe blowing against the roof from the outside. It was fortunately discovered in time to prevent its spreading. Had it once got a good start nothing could have saved the building, and in fact the greater part of the town would have gone as well, with the strong wind.

Many prospectors are coming in, reporting the snow too deep to do anything. The season is three weeks later than last year.

Assessment work is being done on a good many claims in Cariboo creek camp.

NELSON.

The Nelson Miner.

The price paid for the Deer Park estate, consisting of 1800 acres, recently purchased from the C. P. R. by Messrs. Topping and Peterson, was $1800, or $1 per acre.

It is reported that the McNeill Anthracite Coal Company of Canmore has secured the contract of supplying 40,000 tons of coal to the Trail smelter.

There are indications that a good deal of work will be done this year on Toad Mountain and the adjoining hills. The discoveries made last fall about the head of Eagle Creek will be further exploited. Nearly all of these finds consisted of free milling gold quartz, and from the fact that the Poorman had such a satisfactory ledge in the same locality it may be hoped that some of the newer claims may be equally fortunate.

W. F. McCulloch and his partners have bonded two-thirds of their claim, the Golden Eagle, to Edward Cordingley, of Victoria, for $2400, receiving $1200 in cash, the remainder to be paid on Nov. 1.

The negotiations which have been proceeding for some days over the proposed purchase of the Noble Five by the Messrs. Gooderham of Toronto, came to a conclusion on Thursday. Unfortunately the parties were unable to come to mutually agreeable terms and the deal fell through. Messrs. Blackstock, of Toronto, and J. B. Hastings, of Boise, who had been acting on behalf of the eastern capitalists, left yesterday for Rossland.

Nelson Tribune.

"Bob" Jackson has sold the Northern Belle group of mines, in Jackson Basin, to George Alexander of the International Trading Company for $60,000. The details of the agreement between the parties is not made public, but it is understood that a very considerable sum of money changed hands.

Favorable advices are being received from different sections of the province regarding the British Columbia Miners' Association. A branch has been started at Revelstoke, and has already 25 members. Another branch will be started at Illecillewaet, and another at Trout Lake. Within six months there will be branches in every mining division in the province.

The Hall Mines smelter runs as if it had been in operation for years, instead of a few weeks. Four shipments of matter were made during the week. Three hundred tons of coke shipped from Wales has arrived at Vancouver and will reach Nelson next week. The contract for grading the new side track was awarded to A. L. Dolan, who already has a force of men at work. An effort is being made to hurry up shipments of ore from Trail Creek, but the roads between the mines at Rossland and Trail are in bad shape.

ROSSLAND.

(Rossland Miner.)

The new owners of the Monte Christo incorprated the Monte Christo Gold Mining Company at Spokane this week and elected W. D. Currier, president; J. P. Graves, vice president, and F. E. Snodgrass, secretary and treasurer.

The Le Roi company declared a dividend of $50,000 Tuesday evening, May 6. This makes a total of $150,000 in dividends from this mine in less than a year. There is reason to believe the mine can easily pay $50,000 a month after this.

In addition to the Iron Horse the Enterprise has also been sold to a Spokane syndicate. This cleans up the Iron Horse group. Each of the three claims which were so long linked together, is now owned by a separate company, the price in each case having been $25,000 cash. Some other important sales were on the tapis.

J. H. Sussman, mining expert for the C.P.R., went down to Spokane early in the week for the purpose of meeting the War Eagle people and endeavoring to induce them to build their projected smelter somewhere in British Columbia and preferably on the line of the C.P.R. to Rossland.

The main tunnel of the Centre Star has had a full face of solid sulphide ore for the past two weeks as the Miner has already announced. This ore has been of a satisfactory grade right along, but on Wednesday a change was encountered which is more than satisfactory. The full face is now high grade shipping ore.

The balance of the first payment on the bond of the G. R. Sovereign was made on Tuesday. The remaining payments are scattered over a year and the Montana syndicate which has taken hold of the property will now put a good force of men to work on it immediately. The Sovereign is on Lookout mountain about a mile from Trail.

The following table shows the receipts of the office for the first four months in 1895 and 1896 respectively:

	1896.	1895.
January	$2,014.15	$ 263.75
February	3,819.00	627.85
March	2,853.35	1,005.40
April	4,838.95	2,125.70
Total	$13,255.45	$4,022.70

These amounts include no real or personal taxes, no income tax, nor even the new mineral tax, and yet Premier Turner said the mining districts do not pay their share of the provincial revenue.

The final payment on the Georgia, amounting to $15,000, was made by Joseph L. Warner on Monday. The mine itself is looking very well. Since work was started on the new tunnel they had driven about 25 feet and have a full face of ore. It is mostly silicious, but it assays very satisfactorily.

Rossland has been full of conflicting rumors regarding a sale of the War Eagle group for the past few days. With the wires to Spokane down it has been impossible to ascertain just what has transpired, but as nearly as we can learn the facts are than an option has been given on the War Eagle alone, and it runs until August 15. Since this option was given an offer of $800,000 has been made for the property, but of course it could not be accepted under the circumstances. The option which D. C. Corbin held on a majority of the War Eagle stock has just recently expired. This option was obtained by him for a specific purpose, as was well understood by the owners of the War Eagle, and was never used by him.

E. J. Kelly and J. B. McArthur on Saturday succeeded in effecting a settlement with the owners of the Emerald Isle by which the Caledonia Consolidated cleared up its title and added somewhat to its ground. The Caledonia Consolidated nows owns the Caledonia, Pott and Emerald Isle, covering over 60 acres of ground, lying between the Silverine, Evening Star, La Belle, North Star and Viking.

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