

News from Prince Rupert is to the effect that Mr. H. N. Witt, representing the Goldfields Consolidated Mining Co., of San Francisco, Cal., has been examining a group of mineral claims on Salmon River, in Portland Canal mining division, and that a contract had been let for driving an adit 200 ft. farther, on Mr. R. Martin's property on Seven-mile creek. Mr. R. K. Neill, of Spokane, who has for several years been associated with others engaged in developing mines in West Kootenay district, is also doing some exploratory work on a mineral claim in the same mining division.

A press despatch sent out from Vancouver states that gold bullion deposited in the Dominion of Canada Assay Office in that city in 1917 up to July 19 amounted in value to \$1,669,149.37, as compared with \$965,157.54 during the corresponding period of 1916, thus showing an increase of \$703,991.83. Comment is added that the first half of the year is only the early part of the gold-producing period; in some districts the season has only lately been begun, so from the present on for several months the heaviest receipts of gold for the year are expected.

The Rossland Miner lately published news from Northport, Washington, where is situated the smeltery long owned by the Le Roi Mining Co., established with the chief object of smelting ore from the Le Roi and other Rossland mines, as follows: "Activities at the Northport smeltery indicate that plans to gradually enlarge the plant by various new buildings and departments, and probably by additional blast furnaces, are under way. The large machine shop and the electric power-house are nearing completion. Electric power is being brought in from the plant of the West Kootenay Power and Light Co. at Bonnington Falls, B.C., and much money is being expended on the smoke condenser. Room is being made for more furnaces. Meanwhile, the mines and mining prospects of the surrounding district are being developed, and in due time ore from these properties may tax the present capacity of the plant."

ALBERTA OIL COMPANIES.

Calgary, July 28.—The first financial statement of the Southern Alberta Refineries, Limited, has just been issued, which shows a most satisfactory condition of affairs. The directors recommend the payment of a 10 per cent. dividend on all shares on record July 30, 1917, and an additional 5 per cent. on all shares issued before June 30, 1916. This company has therefore earned for itself the proud distinction of being the first oil concern in western Canada to pay a cash dividend.

William Livingston, the president and managing director, states that practically all of the sales of gasoline have been made since last September when No. 1 well was cleaned out, and show a total of over \$75,000. After deducting operating expenses, the financial statement shows a gross profit of \$21,035, and a net profit of \$12,493. The bank balance is over \$21,000.

A. W. Dingman, in the course of a brief interview with The Herald this morning, expressed much satisfaction with the financial statement of the Southern Alberta Refineries. Tentative arrangements had been made, he said, to purchase any oil from the Alberta Consolidated company as soon as that well had been cleaned out, which he anticipated would be at an early date. At the moment he could not, of course, hazard an opinion as to the probable quality of oil that would be produced from the well.

Speaking of the work at the Calgary Petroleum company's refinery, Mr. Dingman stated that the immediate proposition was the fitting up of machinery to extract the gasoline from the crude product. American associates of the company on the other side of the line expected to ship this machinery now in the course of a few days. With regard to the quality of oil at the present time at their wells, Mr. Dingman stated that carload lots were periodically being sent forward.

Mr. Dingman is as optimistic as ever over the future of the Alberta oil fields. They were now down 3,900 feet, he said, and he was convinced that it was at about this depth that large quantities of oil would eventually be found.

THE TASHOTA GOLD DISTRICT, ONTARIO.

By R. C. W. Lett.*

I recently spent a few days at Tashota, Ontario, for the purpose of ascertaining, as far as practicable, whether or not Tashota is, or ever will be, a mining camp.

It has often been said that neither the scientist nor the prospector can see down any distance through rock and muskeg. Therefore, as the matter stands at Tashota, we cannot say whether the camp will stand up under development. We do know, however, that nearly every vein so far located and tested, carries gold values. These run from traces up to \$600 per ton.

Possibly more publicity would have been given to this district, if it were less accessible. Where strikes are generally made, they are beyond transportation facilities, oftentimes at the end of a brutal trail. A rough, hard trail seems to add to the lure.

To reach Tashota, which is in the Kowkash mining division, Ontario, one may board the G. T. P. train here at Winnipeg at 5.15 in the evening, and at 8.36 the following morning, find himself in the very heart of the mining camp, where claims are to be seen on both sides of the railway track. Never before has a gold-mining camp been established under such favorable transportation conditions.

Let us go back to the early history of the district. A spectacular gold find was made by E. W. King Dodds on August 21st, 1915, nine miles northwest of Kowkash, which lies east of Tashota. This was near Howard Falls, on the river Kawa-Kash-Kagama, which signifies sparkling water, now corrupted to Kowkash.

Years before, however, the region was explored by the Geological Survey, and W. H. Collins in 1909 made a report, and his description of the rock formation may have had something to do with attracting the prospectors' attention to the Nipigon country. Mr. A. P. Coleman's report likewise was valuable. More attention, however, at that time, was given by the prospectors in their search for iron, which, although present in that area, has not yet been discovered in economic values.

Robert Bell, in a report to the Geological Survey in 1870-71, and again E. G. Neelands, Geologist, 1900, paved the way for the prospector, when he stated, "Huronian (Keewatin Rocks), mainly chlorite and other soft green schists occur in the Kawa-Kash-Kagama River for about four miles below Wa-Wong Portage (Howard Falls)."

Gold at that time was found in small quartz veins. It was therefore not surprising that King Dodds made his discovery. Like many others, it was accidental. This man was walking over a rocky hill below Howard Falls (the rocks had been burned clean of moss and trees on the previous day) and found gold in the veins

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