

### A DISTRICT WORTH PROSPECTING.

If even in part the opinion of Mr. J. D. Devereux, the Ashcroft Mining Journal's correspondent at Kiskagash, is correct, that district of Cassiar is assuredly well worth careful prospecting. Kiskagash is about sixty miles from Hazelton, and of it Mr. Devereux, writing from Hazelton about the Kiskagash country, to the Mining Journal, says: "I have seen ore from thirteen claims in the Kiskagash district which all looked to be very highly mineralized. Some of it is known to run as high as \$200 to \$300 to the ton in gold alone, and, by information given me by the miners, the cream of the country is not touched yet. All the old experienced hands say that the Kiskagash country will be a better camp than the Kootenay can ever expect to be, as they have gold, silver, copper and lead, where the Kootenay is mostly silver, which is falling in value every day. Little or nothing is known about the wealth of this country by the outside world. Within the past five years I venture to say that \$250,000 has been taken out of this country by individual miners, mostly Chinese."

### GOOD NEWS FOR ROSSLAND.

One feature in connection with the C. P. R.'s purchase of the Heinze interests in West Kootenay will be regarded with the utmost satisfaction by the people of Rossland. It is learned that as regards the operation of the purchased smelter at Trail, the great Canadian company means to charge only actual expenses to mines sending thither their ore. Smelting facilities will, in fact, be provided at cost, and a smelting rate of \$7 a ton and freight rate of 50 cents a ton being declared in respect of Rossland ore consignments. The policy thus announced by Mr. Shaughnessy is thoroughly wise, and will indirectly benefit the C. P. R. enormously as contributing to a vast development of mining in and about Rossland by traffic, connected with which the C. P. R. will earn "big money." The company's liberality in respect of its smelting operations will assuredly be repaid elsewhere a hundred fold, but it is nevertheless highly commendable and certain to prove of the greatest advantage to the Trail Creek country in general.

### THE LE ROI.

The pay-roll of the owning company of the Le Roi now amounts to \$30,000 a month, and the smelter connected with the mine now treats 200 tons of ore daily, but even with this is unable at the moment to deal with the whole output of the mine, which approaches 300 tons a day. Indeed, at the moment—though in this respect an early and great change is expected amongst the other mines of Rossland—were it not for the big weekly shipments of the Le Roi, usually from 1,000 to 1,200 tons, the

shipments of Rossland would be very small and not average more than 250 tons a week.

### MINERAL WEALTH OF CHINA.

Although the United States Government does not does not contemplate taking any part in the present European attempt to dismember China, in view of such possible partition in the near future, the mineral wealth of the country becomes of interest to American mining men as offering a new source of supplies for our European competitors. There is a very general idea prevalent that China has untold and almost unlimited mineral wealth, but there is very little accurate information upon the subject, and is our purpose to publish whatever accurate information we receive in regard to it. Since January 1st, 1898, the State Department at Washington has issued daily "Advance Sheets of Consular Reports," in this way bringing promptly before the public such information as it may receive from our diplomatic and consular service. The following extract is from such advance sheets, issued January 13, 1898, and coming from Consul Fowler, of Ningpo, China:

"Vast untouched beds of sheet mica lie within fifty miles of Kia-Chow bay. The extent of these mica deposits is as yet unknown, but, so far as I have investigated, they promise to handsomely repay those who are fortunate enough to obtain a franchise for working them. The rolling, sandy hillocks, under which the mica lies, are but poor lands for cultivation, and hence their use for mining purposes detracts nothing from the cereal-producing capacity of the region. The mica crops out at intervals over some fifty square miles and in veins sometimes ten feet thick. Of course much of it is discolored by foreign minerals, but what I have seen assures me that there are vast quantities of good commercial material.

"Coal is now being mined in a crude way north of Ank'in City, 200 li from Kiao City. The vein is very thick—eight feet in places—and is a soft bituminous variety. It can hardly be called first class. The mines near Ichofow are more promising in quality.

"Copper and iron exists in many places within reach of Ch'ing Tao, but the quality has not yet been tested on a large scale. The copper of Ank'in county (Hoiu), ninety miles due west of Kiao-Chow City, is rich and thought to be abundant. The outcroppings reveal small pieces of almost pure native metal.

"Silver-bearing lead galena is very abundant in central Shantung.

"Marble and other building stone exist in large beds north of Pingtu City, and could be easily handled at Ching Tao.

"Gold and silver exist, but these metals do not count much in commerce."—Mines and Minerals.