

it has been compelled to agree to permit them to work two Sundays out of each month. No one will be compelled to work, but those desiring to do so may work every other Sunday. The men claim that in other camps they may work, so if they may not do so in Boundary mines they will go elsewhere. Of course, remarks the *Times*, there are many others who feel the necessity of the Sunday's rest and will not work anywhere on that day.

In its Mining Market comments the London *Mining Journal* said, on April 13, "it is announced that the Alaska United, Alaska Treadwell and Alaska Mexican have closed down in consequence of a strike of the miners, but the news has not affected the price of shares." The following week it stated that "Americans generally show lower prices on the week. Alaska Mexicans fell to $21\frac{1}{8}$, Treadwells to $6\frac{1}{4}$, and Uniteds to $15\frac{1}{8}$ on the strike of labour reported last week, but have since recovered a portion of the loss." The closing prices on April 12 were: Mexicans, $25-16@27-16$; Treadwells, $65\frac{5}{8}@67\frac{1}{8}$; Uniteds, $111-16@113-16$. A cable dated April 17 advised that there was "part crew at all mines." Local newspaper dispatches intimate that the miners have returned to work without their demands having been acceded to.

The long tunnel in the Highlander mine, Ainsworth, is being extended, Geo. H. Barnhart, several years ago manager of the Ymir mine, having a contract for driving another 1,000 ft. Mr. Barnhart is also operating the Libby, Spokane and Glengarry properties, all in Ainsworth camp. Mining work in this camp will be much expedited and costs reduced should the owners of the Taylor hydraulic air compressor, installed in a neighbouring creek in 1900 by the Kootenay Air Supply Company, Ltd., again supply the mines with power. The first drill ever operated by compressed air under the Taylor patents was started in one of the Ainsworth camp mines in April, 1900. The revival of interest in local mines which has taken place during the last year will probably lead to this compressed-air supply system being utilized to a greater extent than in former years when previously in operation.

The provincial mineralogist lately received from Lillooet, on the Fraser River, two ounces of black sand concentrate containing platinum, which he forwarded to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U. S. A., where it was sold for \$49.60. No information was received as to the source of the sand from which the concentrate was obtained, but it was probably the Fraser. Heretofore no platinum has been reported as having been found in any other tributary of the Fraser than the Quesnel, which joins the larger stream near Barkerville, Cariboo, about 200 miles north of Lillooet. It is not known to occur about Barkerville, neither in the Fraser nor its tributaries north of Quesnel; neither has it been reported as having been discovered in streams in the Lillooet district

emptying into the Fraser. Failing any other explanation, it would appear that if found in the Fraser near Lillooet the platinum was carried down that river from Quesnel.

With the completion of the railway to Nicola many changes for the better have taken place, and although there is no boom nor excitement on, everything looks as if there will be a prosperous year for Nicola Valley, says the *Nicola Herald*. The coal mines are doing good and substantial work, and in a short time there will be other industries started up as a result of the working of the mines. At Coal Gully all the coal that can at present be produced is disposed of as fast as taken out, and as soon as conditions shall be sufficiently advanced the working force will be increased and several hundred tons of coal mined daily. At the Diamond Vale property a number of men have been engaged in installing machinery, erecting houses and sinking shafts to the coal seams. This company has favourable prospects of becoming a producer of coal in a few months' time. With the work above-mentioned going on, that part of the valley is quite busy, and good results are extended to other parts.

The Skylark Development Co., Ltd., of Phoenix, has made its final payment on account of the purchase of the Skylark mine, and the property has been duly conveyed to the company. On October 1, 1904, the Skylark and Denver mineral claims were taken under bond by a syndicate chiefly of practical mining men resident at Phoenix, distant two to three miles from the mine which about ten years ago shipped a quantity of high-grade ore but had not since been worked for some six years. Briefly stated, observed the *Phoenix Pioneer* in its last Holiday Annual, "the owners of the Skylark have, in about two years, developed the property to such advantage that the price of the bond, \$30,000, together with cost of operation, have been paid out of proceeds of ore mined and shipped from it." Values in Skylark ore are silver, gold, and a little lead, running as high as \$150 per ton in earload lots. The mine has been opened and developed by three levels down to 250-ft. depth.

The Government of British Columbia has decided not to give its assent to any prosecutions under the Lord's Day Observance Act, so the attorney-general stated in the Provincial Legislature just before it was prorogued on April 25. It is understood that the members of the executive council of the Province gave the matter their careful consideration and eventually came to the conclusion that conditions prevailing in British Columbia differ so much from those obtaining in eastern Canada that in their judgment it would be best to take advantage of the optional power the act gives provincial attorney generals to refuse assent to prosecutions under its other provisions. It will follow, therefore, that the interruption to carrying on the mining and smelting industries