

Current Mining News.

Contributions from any part of British Columbia and the mining districts of a reliable nature will be published in these columns, and we request that mining men write us about the progress of the mines of their district. We desire to publish all mining news.

THE NORTH STAR MINE.

It is stated at this noted East Kootenay silver mine that the main ledge has now been struck at a depth of 100 feet. The grade of the ore is found to be greatly improved at this depth. The North Star is again to be a big shipper this spring season.

THE LILY MAY.

This Rosland mine has been sold on option terms to a London, England, syndicate, which is to be capitalized in £400,000. It is stated that the sale involves a cash payment of \$50,000 and 10 per cent. of fully paid up shares in the new company. If so, the present owners of the Lily May will do remarkably well.

WORK ON TOBY CREEK.

The British Pacific Gold Property Company of Victoria means this season to expend \$1,000 in developing the Wellington and Old Dominion claims on Toby creek, East Kootenay. The ore on the claims is galena and copper enclosed by shale and granite walls. The expenditure proposed is small, but sufficient. It is thought by the mining company to show up the ground fairly.

THE WAR EAGLE.

A force of 125 men is now at work at this Rosland mine operating ten drills. When, however, the new plant is installed the working staff will be doubled. Early shipments of 100 tons a day will be made to the Trail smelter, this amount being likely to be increased shortly to 200 tons. The mine has now been opened to a depth of 625 feet, of which 375 feet lying below the 250 foot level is virgin ground, and the only ore removed has been that taken out in drifting. Of the ore lying above the 250-foot level, not more than half has been stoped, yet this half produced about \$350,000 gross values.

GOOD NEWS FOR BUGABOO CREEK.

It is stated as regards this East Kootenay creek, that T. McNaught, formerly of Golden and Fort Steele, has succeeded in floating in Scotland a company to work the Golden and Fort Steele Company's mine on the Bugaboo. If the work goes ahead as anticipated, Bugaboo will become an important camp. The English company which purchased the property there in which Dr. Langis of Vancouver was interested also intends to work, and this season should thus see the opening of regular shipments of ore down the Columbia river from Bugaboo. The navigation company intends to make liberal provision to encourage this trade and development of the mines by building ore scows as soon as trade warrants it, and by carrying the ore to Golden at from \$1 to \$1.50 per ton. Arrangements will also be made to save handling by the transfer of the ore over the lumber company's tramway to Golden station. It is added that this same Scottish company which is to work the Bugaboo creek claims will also take up several at Kinbasket lake, also in East Kootenay.

THE LE ROI.

The British America Corporation has reopened negotiations with a view to securing this great Rosland mine. Colonel J. N. Peyton, the late manager of the mine, has been entrusted with the negotiations, and is now in London. Meanwhile the Rosland Miner describes the present state of the mine as follows:

"Drifting to the west is now in progress in the 700-foot level of the Le Roi, and at that point the showing is the finest that has ever been encountered in the mine. The ore shows a considerable increase in values, and an average of about 4 per cent. copper is being obtained, while good values run as high as \$150. The paystreak in which the high-grade ore is found is about six feet wide, but the width of the vein has not been ascertained. The fault that was met with at the 600-foot level has disappeared. The west drift at the 600-foot level is 455 feet, and the ore body continues very fine. The winze to connect the Black Bear tunnel is down 45 feet. The shipments continue steadily at the rate of 200 tons per day, and the Le Roi smelter at Northport, under the skillful management of James Breen, is moving without a hitch. At present only one blast is being used, but the second will shortly be started, and the quantity of ore that has accumulated in the roast heaps at the smelter will be treated. The task will keep both blasts running for about a month. The ore from the mine is now being shipped in three grades—the first class running from three to four ounces in gold, while the second grade carries about an ounce and a half. The third grade comprises the lowest class of ore treated under the present conditions, and runs in the neighborhood of \$15.

THE TANGIER AND WAVERLEY MINES.

Mr. Otto Abeling, the engineer of the Tangier and Waverley mines, has returned to British Columbia from London. He will act for the season as consulting engineer and superintendent of construction for the Tangier Mine, Limited, of Albert Canyon, Illicillewaet. Hoisting and pumping works are to be erected on the former, and a concentrating mill and tramway on the latter. A narrow gauge railway will connect the mines with the C. P. R. at Albert Canyon. Operations are to begin as soon as the season opens. Tenders are out for machinery and supplies, and contracts will be placed in a few days.

AT OTTERTAIL.

Mr. T. Hebsen has all winter been tunneling on his claims, the Hercules and the Phoebe. The claims are nine miles distant from the Ottertail station of the C. P. R., and assays of selected specimens show remarkably well. Their chief contents are silver and copper with some gold, and the owner and worker believes that he has a very valuable high-grade proposition. Hitherto Ottertail has not been a precious-metal producing district, but it may soon now become one. The East Kootenay Miners' Association pays a high eulogy to Mr. Hebsen's persevering work at Ottertail.

COAST DISTRICT MINING.

Excellent reports come from the Dorothy Morton, progress on which is being very satisfactorily made on behalf of the English company which owns it. The Ajax also promises well. On the other hand local experts have little that is good to say of the properties held in this district by the Gold Fields of British Columbia, Limited. They are in general deemed very much under the local average, and it remains to be seen whether in the main they will prove profitably workable.