

been confined to development work on a number of claims at Cadwallader Creek and the North Fork of Bridge River. In the latter locality the Maid of England is regarded as exceptionally promising. The Lorne Mines have been further developed, and the ore crushed by means of an arrastra, the value of the gold recovered being \$3,200. Both the Ben D'or and the Anderson Lake Company's properties have been worked under bond. On Tyanchton Creek an outcropping of cinnabar was located and several claims staked in the locality.

UNRESTRICTED COMMERCE.

TO THE EDITOR:—When some of our friends from abroad come here in quest of large game, it is not an uncommon occurrence to find them heading for any one of our large steamers lying at the different wharves of British Columbia, with anywhere from two to half a dozen guns, some of them good enough and large enough to kill even an elephant. Accompanied with these guns will be found any amount of ammunition, caps, powder, etc.

Now, it does seem to me, Mr. Editor, that while we have no objection to our friends at home and abroad hunting wild game, that some protection at least might be given to a poor prospector who starts out in quest of mineral in the various points in British Columbia, and that he might at least be allowed equal privileges to equip himself with such material as he requires, but as a matter of fact, according to the present laws he is not permitted to carry even a stick of powder or a box of caps, but may take all the steel he wants or any other equipment, and provision enough to last him a lifetime, but the one essential thing necessary to his progress in prospecting, is by the Dominion Statutes absolutely barred. The consequence is, that we find a man who takes his life in his own hands one hundred times, who is really the jackal of all mining enterprises, resorting to all manner of subterfuges, not allowed to carry the one essential, namely, powder and caps. Now in the name of all that is fair and businesslike, why may not some provision be made on any boat on which these prospectors travel, by having constructed a small magazine visible by all the passengers and marked as such, the key of which might be kept in the hands of the purser whose duty in the case of an alarm or accident it should be to open such magazine and throw the contents into the water, thereby removing any extra hazardous risk in carrying these supplies. When we remember that so much of our own progress is affected by so vital a matter, it is surprising that it should not have received serious attention long ago. It would seem that instead of encouraging the poor prospector, every hindrance is put in his way. The most frequent notice on any one of the boats, is the caution against carrying explosives by any passenger. If it were not so serious a matter, one would be inclined to laugh at the farce of the thing. If we cut the mineral resources out of our consideration in dealing with the other resources of this Province, what have we left? Surely, Mr. Editor,

it is high time that our provincial authorities should appeal strongly to the Dominion Government for relief in this matter in the interest of untrammelled and progressive commerce.

ROWLAND MACHIN.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

VELVET (ROSSLAND.)

THE annual general meeting of shareholders was held in London last month. It was stated that Mr. Gray, the manager, upon getting to work, soon opened up some rich ground in the fifth level. Similar discoveries of rich ore were also made in the first and second levels, and work was restricted to them. The object of this was to save the expense of pumping, which is necessary to enable ore to be raised from the 5th level, and consequently, as soon as the ore in the upper levels became available, pumping was stopped, and the mine was allowed to fill with water up to the 3rd level, where it is automatically drained by the tunnel. The rich ore, therefore, in the 5th level remains for the future.

The operations at the mine between September, 1902, and July, 1903, were carried on without any material financial aid from London, and were only stopped when, to ensure a continuance of the supply of rich ore, further exploratory work became necessary.

The recent developments have for some time past shown the ore shoots trending towards the Portland. The opening up of the 1st level in the Portland gave excellent results, as did the driving south of the second level in the Velvet, which was extended into the Portland boundary, and Mr. Gray is of opinion that there are great possibilities of the discovery of fresh shoots of ore to the south on that property. Mr. Sorensen advised that the Velvet and Portland mines should be worked together, and now it has become a necessity for this company to acquire the Portland ground. Mr. Thompson in his report recommends this, and his view of the matter is confirmed by Mr. Maclean, who has recently studied the question on the spot; the key to a successful future for the Velvet, therefore, appears to lie largely in its becoming owner of the Portland. With the object of bringing this about, terms which are regarded as reasonable, and the best this company could arrange, were made with the Portland Company, subject to ratification by the shareholders, who doubtless will confirm what has been done on their behalf.

The proposed arrangement ensures a considerable reduction in the amount of capital issued by the Velvet and Portland companies, so that the new company proposed to be formed to take over the Velvet and Portland properties (in which it is hoped that all present, shareholders in both companies, will become interested), may not be handicapped by over capitalization.

Under the scheme of amalgamation Portland shareholders will receive fully paid shares in the new company while Velvet shareholders receive shares subject to a liability of 2s. 6d. The reason of this is simple; that the Portland directors (acting with the approval of a shareholder representing three-fourths of the capital of that company, refused to part with their property unless paid for it either in cash or fully paid shares. The Portland claims, being considered essential for the success of the new company, had to be acquired, and hence the agreement made, which is very reasonable.

As to the future method of dealing with the ores, it is proposed to erect a comparatively inexpensive smelting plant on the mine, with a view to saving expenses, which upon the 5,500 tons of ore treated amounted to \$40,000, or £8,000, or about 29s. per ton. By the process in question the sulphur contents of the ore will be made to act mainly as the fuel, and the ore values will be separated at a cost estimated at not more than \$2.50 or 10s. per ton, or a saving of 19s. per ton, instead of, as at present, at a cost of nearly three times as much.

ROSSLAND-KOOTENAY.

The annual report of the London directors of the Rossland-Kootenay Mining Company, Ltd. shows a loss during the