

The smelter returns have just been received from a 245-ton shipment of ore sent to San Francisco from the Silver Cup mine; the gross value of the ore is given as between \$150 to \$175 a ton, and the shipment as netting the owners \$36,400 clear of all expenses. The Silver Cup is at present the show mine of the Trout Lake district, but many properties are now showing up well under development.

A correspondent from Boundary Creek writes that "in consequence of the railroad construction work from Robson, many claims and embryo mines have lately changed hands, and it is to be expected that a large amount of capital will be invested in the district this summer and autumn." Meanwhile, many of the better known properties are being steadily developed, reports from the Snowshoe and Idaho in Greenwood Camp, being especially gratifying. Work is proceeding on the No. 7 in Central Camp, and 40 tons of high grade ore were recently taken from the drift just started at the 70-foot level. On the Big Four, a claim having a large showing of pyrrhotite in the Kimberley Camp, situated between five and seven miles up Boundary Creek from the town of Greenwood, a large body of good ore has been uncovered, assays returning from \$18 to \$24 in gold.

Chamber's Journal for July, in an article headed "The Golden Kootenay in 1898," contains a most glowing and truthful account of one portion of our mineral section, that is well worthy of perusal. The following passage is selected at random:

"The present year will probably witness some of the most remarkable and successful mineral developments the world has ever seen. These mountains and valleys are, day by day, yielding up more and more of their immense riches. It is only the miner or mineralogist who has actually visited the Kootenays who can form an idea of their mineral wealth. Gold, silver, copper and lead occur here in great fissure veins, with quartz and iron-pyrites."

Some two hundred prospectors and miners are at work at the present on Texada Island, and several very promising developed prospects are being opened up. A good strike of high-class ore is reported from the Van Anda, and the Maple Bay, Silver Tip, Raven, and Iron mine are all showing up well. An interesting property is the Surprise mine, which is owned and developed by a party of eight Comox miners. These men acquired the claim two years ago, and have since worked continually upon it. An offer recently made of \$75,000 for the claim, was refused.

THE MONTH AT ROSSLAND.

NO very marked changes have taken place in the mines in Rossland during the past month. There has been a considerable flurry in some stocks, notably those of the War Eagle and Monte Cristo, and, generally, an upward tendency in the market.

The *Toronto Globe* stated with regard to the Homestake group, on the South belt, that the deal had been closed through one of a Toronto firm of brokers. This was premature, and nothing has been settled as yet, and in fact, D. M. Lennard is now in Eastern Canada, having come out from London, and will place that group of mines on some workable basis before he leaves for the Kootenays.

The smelter in Trail has started roasting, and will blow in before very long. I see that Edward J.

Howell, of London, (Eng.), and of the Vancouver Smelting Company, lately stated in an interview at Winnipeg, that British capital is merely awaiting good returns made on capital already invested, ere it begins to rush in.

This may be taken, as far as we are locally concerned, as an allusion to the British America Corporation, who represent the biggest block of English capital here invested. As I said last month, the B.A.C. is doing steady work, and is proceeding in a direction which is both intelligent and business like. It intends developing its mines and thoroughly proving their character before shipping is begun in large quantities.

The Columbia and Kootenay is the easternmost of the mines which the B.A.C. purchased on the North Belt. It has been lying idle since last August, when Aug. Heinze failed to complete its purchase. At the time of the sale some 750 feet of work had been done on No. B. tunnel, but since the manager, D. J. Macdonald, has been working this spring, it has been extended another 125 feet, besides some other new work in upraises, etc. One hundred and twenty-five feet below this tunnel, No. 4 has been drifted in 150 feet, and below this again, 150 feet down the hillside, and almost vertically under the others, No. 5 tunnel has been started. Moreover, large new bunkhouses have been erected, and the compressor plant put into thorough working order.

The Great Western is the next mine to the Westward, and is in charge of Wm. Haskins. Here the shaft has been sunk another 60 feet, and is now down 150 feet altogether. On the attainment of 200 feet in sinking, it is the intention of the management to cross-cut on that level.

Next in order is the Nickel Plate, also under the charge of Billy Haskins. Here a considerable amount of work had to be undertaken to place the mine in good condition. This is well under way, and the principal work is now being done on the 200-foot level, drifting and cross-cutting. On this ground a new 12-drill Ingersoll air-compressor has been installed, which supplies air and power to both the Great Western and the Nickel Plate.

Of course the Le Roi mine is not as yet altogether in the hands of the B.A.C., but the corporation has 130 men on development work. The main shaft is being extended down to a 700-foot level, where a large station is now being put. The management is in the hands of N. Tregear.

The Josie, lying westward of Le Roi, is managed by J. M. Long, who is employing his men drifting and cross-cutting on the 300-foot level. Lying contiguous is the ground of the No. 1. No. 1, which is under the same management as the Josie. Here the work done is practically all new. A vertical shaft is being sunk, and a tunnel is being drifted.

Altogether, the General Superintendent, Mr. Carlyle, reports good headway, and everything doing splendidly. At present there is no thought of shipping, and the B.A.C. authorities are bent on doing development work, in order to get all their properties on a good workable basis.

On the Nickel Plate flat, just above the Red Moun