

GOOD STRIKE ON BLUE BELLS.

Mr. W. Pellew Harvey, F. C. S., of Vancouver, consulting engineer for the London and Vancouver Finance and Development Company, the English company that is developing the Blue Bells mine, on Frederick Arm, has returned from a visit to the property much pleased with the development in the ore bodies since his last inspection, a few weeks ago. The cross-cut tunnel, which encountered what is supposed to be the hanging wall of the big Blue Bells lead, at a distance of 80 feet from the mouth of the tunnel, has been extended on through the wall, and, after being run a distance of 18 feet, encountered very good ore, composing what is thought to be a parallel vein. A shaft is being sunk at the junction of the cross-cut tunnel and the northeast drift, and at the time of Mr. Harvey's visit was down about 16 feet. At a depth of five feet a body of rich looking pyrrhotite ore was struck, and the shaft has since continued in such ore. The width of the ore body has not been ascertained, but it fills the bottom of the shaft. Mr. Harvey brought down with him some large and fine-looking samples of the ore from the bottom of the shaft; also a ton of ore, which is being shipped to one of the smelters down the Sound, to be tested. The favorable showing on the Blue Bells augurs well for the success of mainland coast mining, where well and wisely conducted, on the better class of claims.

BANK NOTE CIRCULATION.

Banks have apparently either lacked courage to take up the suggestion thrown out by President Thomas of the Bankers' Association regarding the right of the banks to issue bills of small denominations, or they consider the time or the suggestion, or both, inopportune. The present time is certainly an opportune one for a discussion of the question. Some of the more popular banks, such as the Imperial, have for some time been paying out the bills of other banks, owing to the fact that they have reached the limit of their own circulation. If they could secure legislation to enable them to issue small notes, their difficulty would be at once overcome, but it is very doubtful if such a privilege will ever be accorded the chartered banks. Might as well almost ask the Government to hand over its right of handling the metal currency of the country. The banks have a great deal of influence with the Government, but it is scarcely likely that they will pay any heed to Mr. Thomas's advice in the matter. If any of the banks feel themselves hampered in the matter of circulation through a shortage in bills, the remedy is in their own hands, and they may apply it by getting an increase of capital, which the Government will not deny them.—*Ex.*

BUSINESS AND THE DRINK HABIT.

One of the Gooderham's distillery company says the distillery, which was closed down last June, will not be reopened for a year, and probably not for two years. The stock of whiskey on hand is very large. A fact that must be patent to the least observant is that the use of spirituous liquors is on the decrease. This change has been brought about by the altered condition of life. Formerly, when business competition in all walks of life was less keen, it was easier to make a living. Now, demand for labor is less active, owing to the invention of labor saving appliances and the competition of women and children with male laborers. Not many years ago a clever man, even if he was afflicted to some extent with the drink habit, could always obtain employment. Now, no business concern will employ a habitual tippler. Competition in business has become so keen in recent years that business men cannot afford to drink, and the habit among business men in business hours has almost entirely disappeared. Large mercantile and financial institutions prefer reliability rather than ability in their employes, if a choice has to be made between the two, although a combination is always preferable. Not many years have passed since it was the fashion, nay, almost the invariable rule among traders of a certain class, to drink together when a trade or bargain was agreed upon or completed, and the buyer would have been regarded as niggardly if he did not treat. All that has disappeared. Now a business man cannot afford to have his brain muddled with liquor.

W. PELLEW HARVEY

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