

mines. It is reported that the owners intend broad-gauging the railway track to the Intercolonial at Northwest Arm. It is also stated that work at the mine is to be vigorously prosecuted, as new life and capital has been secured.

The General Mining Association of London, Ltd., purpose constructing a piece of railway to run in a parallel direction from a point near the old pit to connect with the main line near No. 3. The movement is seemingly to avoid the heavy grades of the present line and the difficulties to contend with during the early winter season caused by heavy snow blockades.

MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

From a friend who has just returned from Trail Creek, we were glad to hear of the success of our old friend, J. D. Sword, of the Ingersoll Rock Drill Company of Canada. J. D. has been vigorously pushing the interests of the Ingersoll Company and has secured the plums of this year's business in the new camps. J. D.'s a rustler. "He is!"

Mr. W. Pellew-Harvey, F.C.S., is putting up a very complete assay plant at his laboratory in Vancouver. When finished the works will contain, besides the usual furnaces, a chlorination plant, a stamp mill, and a one-ton water-jacket smelting stack.

The cave of a slab of gravel in the Cariboo mine at Quesnelle Forks this month caused serious but not fatal injuries to five men, Messrs. D. McKae, Joe Dunn, Brown, McNorton and another. The bank of gravel, which is about 300 feet high, was considered dangerous, and the sluice boxes near it were cleaned up only a short time ago. A watchman was on duty to give warning, while the men were at work blasting boulders in the pit. He gave warning in good time, and the gravel fell in such a way that would not seem to carry danger with it, but when it struck the bottom the mass broke up and slid outward to where the men were standing in apparent safety. They were badly bruised and knocked around. One man had his legs broken and another an arm, while McKae had his back severely injured. A surgeon was sent for and at last reports the men were as comfortable as could be expected.

The shipments of ore from the Trail Creek and other mines from June to the end of September, were as follows:—

	Tons.
Nelson	214½
Ainsworth	190
Trail Creek (gold ore).	8,748½
Slocan <i>via</i> Nakusp	945
Slocan <i>via</i> Kaslo	16½
	10,114½

The shipments of bullion during the same period were 1,160 tons. The shipments from this district from the beginning of the year amount to 21,928 tons of a value of \$1,780,400.

The Omaha & Grant Smelting Co., acting through their representative, have bonded the Ruby Silver from W. P. Russell. Geo. Clarke, late superintendent of the Washington, is in charge. The price is reported to be \$7,500. The same company has bonded the Ajax and Treasure Vault claims, situated near the Noble Five.

The Stevenson Gold and Platinum Hydraulic Mining Company is getting along well. About a mile of flume is built, while the grading and trestlework is about half a mile further ahead. The company purposes bringing in the first north fork of Granite creek, and this will give about 1,000 inches of water. When Mr. Hunter left Indians had been sent to pack the pipe to the grounds. This company has been reorganized under Dominion charter, with the name of Granite Creek Gold and Platinum Hydraulic Co., Ltd., and the affairs will soon be nominally transferred. Washing is expected to start in the spring.

"The site of the smelter for the Silver King mine," says the *Tribune*, "is a scene of activity. Ore bins are being erected, and excavating for the foundations of the smelter is being pushed; the railway spur is being graded and trestles built, and the tramway is almost completed. Men are shovelling earth, breaking stone, framing timbers, and bossing. In all, about one hundred men are employed. Most of the rockwork on the railway spur is completed, and foreman Kelly will soon have his men on the big side-cut on the bluff to the north of the smelter site. A bridge gang under the foremanship of Jake Serson is erecting the big trestle opposite the railway round-house. The ore-bins are going up under the foremanship of Hugh Nixon. The excavations for the smelter buildings are being looked after by superintendent Johnson himself, with Mr. McIntyre as foreman. The tramway is under the control of the California Wire Works Co., of which E. I. Parsons is superintendent here. It is said that the smelter will be in operation by January 1st."

Mr. J. Kirkup, mining recorder and deputy gold commissioner of the Trail Creek district, states that there were about 500 claims recorded previous to his taking the office on the 20th of March of this year. Since that time 1,561 claims have been recorded and that there have been 650 to 750 transfers and bonds, 150 certificates of work and 25 applications for a Crown Grant.

The coal shipments for the month of September show an increase over August, being as follows:—

	Output. Tons.	Increase. Tons.
New Vancouver Coal Co.	17,233	7,907
Wellington Coal Co.	20,264	7,338
Union Colliery Co.	18,179	7,429

The Montana Ore Purchasing Co. of Butte City, Mont., is proceeding with the construction of the smelter at Trail. The *Trail Creek Miner* reporting on the work

says: The equipment of the smelter is to be very complete, and of the most improved kind. There are to be two O'Hara furnaces, two reverberatory furnaces, circular furnace designed expressly for these works, and one water jacket stack. These comprise the essential features. There will also be very complete sampling works. The necessary adjuncts in the way of buildings, ore sheds, etc., will be of the most complete order. Mr. Heinze knows how to build a smelter. He has one in Butte which cleared nearly \$100,000 last year and which is admirable in all its arrangements. The Trail smelter will accommodate about 125 tons of ore per day. Mr. Heinze has a contract with the Le Roi for 75,000 tons. This will be delivered to him probably at the rate of 100 tons a day or 36,500 tons a year. Therefore it will take at least two years to discharge this contract. Since he will have a capacity of twenty-five tons a day above the Le Roi ore it may be asked how is he to take care of the other ore which is to be offered from this camp. To this question he says he will double the capacity just as soon as it shall appear to be an actual necessity.

It is reported that the smelter at Golden is to be dismantled and the machinery and such other portions of the plant as are of utility will be removed to Midway, B.C., where a syndicate, represented by S. S. Fowler, M.E., of Chicago, and W. T. Thompson, of Fairview, will erect a smelter with a 50 ton plant.

J. S. Bell reports considerable activity in mining matters in Lillooet district. At the Bonanza mine there are already 500 tons of ore on the dump. Work is to be renewed shortly on the Vancouver Enterprise placer claim on Cayoos creek. Twenty-five men are at work for the Bridge River Gold Mining Company at Horseshoe Bend. New quartz stakes have been set on Anderson lake. An English syndicate is to run a \$40,000 ditch to bring water from Cayoos creek to the McDonald & Hurley placer claims on the east bank of the Fraser.

Men employed at the Tam O'Shanter, on Kootenay lake above the Blue Bell, have been clearing up around the mine, and sorting the ore, with the result that about 30 tons are ready for shipment. Repairs have also been made to the wharf. Next week the force will be largely increased, another tunnel run for about 200 feet, and the mine worked for all it is worth. The property is said to be a promising one, and under efficient management should be made profitable.

The owners of the Washington mine, Slocan district, have asked for estimates on a 60-ton concentrator and a 1,500-foot tramway for that property. It is the intention to run the concentrator by water-power, the water supply coming from what is locally known as McGuigan lake. The contract will probably be closed next week.

The War Eagle Company at Trail Creek has mined and shipped 7,015 tons of ore to date. The last 27 shipments, amounting altogether to 2,300 tons brought an average return from the smelter of \$48.30 per ton. From this must be deducted \$10.50 for freight and treatment, \$2 per ton haulage to Trail, and \$4 for mining, leaving a net profit of \$31.30 per ton. A new tunnel is now being run in from below to tap the vein, which it is expected to reach in 1,800 feet. Two new boilers of 100 horse-power each are under order and are expected to arrive shortly. They will be used for driving from 10 to 12 drills.

MICA NOTES.

We are indebted to the Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department, Washington, for the following returns of the imports of mica into the United States for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1895:—

	Lbs.	Value.
France	1,315	\$ 481
Germany	1,544	1,999
England	110,491	33,979
Scotland	359	207
Canada	546,905	36,401
British East Indies	148,056	48,731
Japan	12,000	2,194
British Australasia	312	292
Total for 1895	820,982	\$124,284

NOTE.—The imports from England and Scotland are most kely entirely Indian mica. That from Canada is entirely from the Province of Quebec.—Eh.

The imports for previous years by the United States were as follows:—

Mica and Mica Waste.			
1884—Free	\$28,284	1888—Free	\$21,013
1885 "	28,685	1889 "	93,143
1886 "	43,107	1890 "	161,740
1887 "	63,480	1891 "	110,094

Mica.			
	Lbs.	Value.	
1891—Duty 35%	130,029	\$21,750 01	
1892 "	1,047,404	179,865 12	
1893 "	930,707	214,679 99	
1894 "	514,132	\$4,429 55	

At the Wallingford mine, in East Templeton, the owners are working a small force and laying up stock. The mine is being carefully and judiciously worked, and by no means to its full capacity. During the past season a steam hoisting plant was added. About six or seven tons of large mica of an excellent quality, ranging from 4 in. x 6 in. and upwards were on hand at the date of our correspondent's visit. Rumor has it that an English syndicate have made an offer for the property.

At the Vavasour mine, Cantley, mining is being steadily carried on with returns satisfactory to the owner. The quantity and quality of the output has been up to the