

MINING IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Copper.—At Cape d'Or the Colonial Copper Co., Limited, who purchased a property from J. C. Mahon *et al.*, are doing a considerable amount of development work, and have been getting out some very good ore. The ore is native copper occurring in trap rock. The same company are also doing some prospecting at New Annan, where gray copper ore is found associated with lignite in beds of carboniferous sandstone.

The Wallace River Copper Co. have closed down operations at Wallace River and Malagash Point and are now testing some gold properties at Block House, Lunenburg County.

No reliable information can be obtained as to the operations of the Copper Crown Co. This company were to have started smelting last year, but up to date have returned no results at the Mines Office.

Iron.—Messrs. S. M. Brookfield and others have been doing a lot of development work at Torbrook and have opened out some excellent leads of magnetite and hematite. They now have one of the Government drills in operation and are boring to cut the leads at a depth of 500 ft.

Messrs. J. A. Pushie and others are continuing prospecting at Arisaig, Antigonish County. Three veins have been opened, 7, 9 and 16 ft. in width respectively, and things generally are looking very satisfactory.

Gold.—The Tunnel Company at Waverley are so satisfied with the results obtained from their 40-stamp mill that they are putting in an additional 30 stamps. The 50-stamp mill at Gays River has been dropping steadily for the past two months, and although no returns have been declared up to date, the manager informed your correspondent that the owners were quite satisfied with results obtained up to now.

At the Dufferin mine, Salmon River, a number of test runs have been made recently.

The Guffey-Jennings Company, at Caribou, have struck excellent ore at a depth of between 500 and 600 ft. This is by far the best developed mine in the province. The company have wisely put their money into the mine instead of into machinery. The 10-stamp mill which was on the property when the present owners purchased it has only been used for testing purposes and for crushing such rock as had to be taken out in carrying on the development of the mine. There are now some two hundred thousand tons of ore blocked out, and the owners intend sinking an additional 400 ft. before putting in a suitable crushing plant.

The Voglers Cone mine, Lunenburg County, has been purchased by an American syndicate.

The Napier mine at Oldham and the Tudor mine at Waverley are likely to be restarted shortly.

The old Pictou Development Company's mine at Renfrew has been turning out some extraordinary ore; the last crushing was 735 ounces from 53 tons, and it is estimated that quite 2,000 more ounces have been taken out, but no crushing has been done recently on account of lack of water.

It is expected that the new mill at the Royal Oak mine, Goldenville, will start next month.

The Richardson Company have shipped 50 tons of concentrates to Pictou, 50 tons to North Brookfield, and have contracted to ship 400 tons to Boston. The company have found some difficulty in getting these concentrates treated, the cost of treatment, shipping charges, etc., swallowing up more than half their values.

Lead.—Mr. S. M. Brookfield and others have restarted operations at Cliticamp. A number of tests are to be made, and, if satisfactory operations on an extensive basis will be started.

Other Minerals.—Messrs. Mason & Askwith and others have been opening up a deposit of fire-clay at Middle Musquodoboit, and quite extensive boring operations have been carried on and samples of the clay shipped to the States and England to make trial bricks from.

Mr. Patrick has reopened the old Pendergras baryte mine at River John for an American syndicate.

Personnel.—Mr. F. H. Mason has recently made an examination of the Clementsvale iron areas.

Mr. W. R. Askwith is in Cape Breton examining copper and manganese properties near Cape North.

Mr. Frederick Taylor, of Boston, is in the province in connection with re-opening the Napier property.

LARDEAU DISTRICT.

All the indications seem to point out that the coming winter (of whose approach there are already unmistakable signs on the foliage) will be a very quiet one in Revelstoke. Most of the companies working in the Big Bend district during the past season have decided to shut down for the winter, chiefly on the ground of unnecessary expense, as it is useless to extract ore and sack it when there is no transportation, or at least only such as is most inefficient and unsatisfactory. The claims have all been steadily developed, and the regular assessments more than amply performed, with the view of course of showing any prospective purchaser a fairly well developed property, and not as is too often the case a mere scratch on the surface of the ground. The day indeed has gone by when a prospect with no work done would be eagerly picked up, and it is a good thing for the country that it is so, as the chances of success are far better than when blind buying was all the fashion. It is possible that some of the very promising placer diggings on Smith Creek will be worked during the winter, but even that is uncertain, and everything else will be practically idle till next year.

The Albert Canyon and Illecillewait camps will be in no more prosperous a position than Revelstoke, as matters are being wound up at the celebrated (or notorious?) Waverley and Tangier mines, and the aerial ropeway at the Lanark has been removed to the Molly Gibson near Nelson. Of course it by no means follows that there is no ore in these terribly mismanaged proper-

ties because the late superintendents could not find it; indeed those well qualified to judge believe that there is plenty of money in the claims yet; but for all that the utter failure of them so far helps to give the country a "black eye" and discourages the advent of capital.

Hence we have to fall back upon the Lardeau district for good news, and there sure enough we find it, and lots of it. The Silver Cup is planning to ship a great deal of ore this winter, and other mines are following suit, notably perhaps the Nettie L., whose late new and rich find was noticed in these pages very recently. This strike is worth remark, as it was an instance where what was supposed to be the footwall of the vein (and lots of first-class ore was extracted therefrom) proved to be the hanging wall of a far more valuable vein and immensely increased the value of the mine. This has occurred not unfrequently elsewhere in British Columbia, and it shows plainly that we should not rest content in the belief that the apparent wall is the real one, but crosscut through it and see if there is anything on the other side. A very small force of men has been working on the Nettie L. for the last few months, as on account of the expense and difficulty of transportation it was useless to extract all the ore that could have been won, but now with the approach of winter and reasonable hopes of snow, the force will be considerably increased. It is satisfactory to be able to state that a recent visit to this mine by the writer showed that the reports had not been exaggerated, there are 2 ft. of solid shipping, and about 5 ft. more of concentrating ore, all of which is carefully sorted before being put on one side to await cheaper transportation and possibly also lower smelting charges.

Another property that has come very much to the front lately is the Triune, which is one of the youngest claims in the camp, being hardly three months old, and yet sent a trial shipment of some 20 tons to the Trail smelter which gave the handsome return of \$290 nett to the ton. This is a record hard to beat, but what this incipient mine has done, others are likely to do, such is the wonderful richness of the district. In this case (of the Triune) there was no company at the back of it with money to spend, but it was worked by the owner and a very few men who held an interest in the concern. As an illustration of the expense of transportation, this ore cost \$25 per ton to get it to the shipping point, and then \$22 per ton more for freight and treatment at Trail. No wonder those interested in mines are agitating for the completion of the railway as far as Trout Lake at least, though even then but a small section of the district will receive much benefit. It is not unreasonable for a railway company to try and size up the amount of freight it is likely to get from any locality before building into it, but on the other hand there are dozens of small mines that are anxious to ship but find it impossible to do so economically till the line is built, and so there is something of a deadlock. Of course only the very best product of the various mines will pay to ship as matters stand at present, and the very richest ore is not the most plentiful, commonly five times as much concentrating ore being present as there is of shipping. A great deal of prospecting and of assessment work has been done in the Duncan-Lardeau this summer, but the extreme roughness of the country makes any but the very highest grade ore more of a loss than a profit by the time it reaches the smelter. Leaving the Lardeau now for the present, we may turn to the Fish River district, some 10 or 15 miles west and nearer Revelstoke. The Fish River flows into the end of the north-east arm of Upper Arrow Lake, taking its rise in the mountainous district of Illecillewait, and on all the numerous creeks running into the river are located hundreds of mineral claims. One of the most important tributaries is Pool Creek, and on that creek are situated the properties known as the "Wide West," the "Black Bear," and the "Bear Creek" claims, on which the owners intend to work all the winter. On Lexington Creek—another tributary—the Banner group is situated, and this as well is preparing for a winter siege, the owners being well satisfied with their prospects. On Boyd Creek and Sable Creek also are many very promising claims, the Tribby group being located some distance up the latter creek, and showing very rich argentiferous galena. This country is very difficult of access, and the prospector who ventures through its wilds in search of mineral treasures most surely deserves all he can get, as it is a continued risk to limb and life. The proposed railway will go through this district, and will be of inestimable benefit; indeed without some such means of easy transportation it is hard to see how its known wealth can be made available. But what a mining country it will prove when that long-wished-for railway actually runs through it!

A. H. H.

REVELSTOKE, B.C., Oct. 16, 1900.

ROSSLAND DISTRICT.

The shipments of ore from Rossland's mines this year will only show a slight increase over last year's total. This is due primarily to the labor trouble, which compelled a total cessation of shipments for nearly two months, and the fact that the War Eagle has not yet resumed, while the Centre Star has only recently done so. The fact that the Northport smelter is swamped with ore, requiring a temporary suspension of shipments from the Le Roi No. 2 and the curtailment of the Le Roi's output, and the further fact that no agreement has yet been arrived at other than a *modus vivendi*, between the War Eagle and Centre Star on the one hand and the Trail smelter on the other, regarding freight and treatment on the output of these properties, have been the chief factors in keeping the camp's output for the past few months so much below the capacity of the mines.

At present the shipments average about 6,500 tons per week. The Le Roi sends down about 4,500 tons; the Centre Star about 2,000, and the Iron Mask, I.X.L. and Giant lesser quantities.

By the first of January it is hoped the difficulties at the smelter will be overcome, the Le Roi's new hoisting plant in operation, and the War Eagle once more a producer. The weekly shipments should then run about as follows:—Le Roi, 6,000 tons; Centre Star, 2,000; War Eagle, 1,500; Le Roi No. 2, 1,500; Great Western, 1,000; Iron Mask, 300; I.X.L., Evening Star and Giant at least 25 tons each, or a total of over 12,000 tons, the mines working only six days out of the seven.