

The new owners are said to have acquired the property on an initial payment of \$2,000 and on a bond for more than \$200,000 covering a long period of years. They are said to have expended \$50,000 in development and to have removed more than their expenditure in ore of the higher grade. The product has been sacked and rawhided down the mountains to the head of the Portland canal, 14 miles, for transportation by boat to Prince Rupert, 100 miles or more distant.

Transportation, which is the great need of the property, will be supplied by a wagon road to be built between the head of the canal and the mine. The cost of its construction and further equipment of the property will be \$100,000 by estimate.

R. K. Neill of Spokane is the reported owner of a quarter interest in the mine. Other owners are Roland Woods, an official of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, and Mr. Wilson and Mr. Trites of Fernie.

Washing operations will start at the placer mines of the Gamble Mining company near Fort Steele shortly, according to H. S. Gamble of Cranbrook, the owner.

About 20 men will be employed by the company on this site which is on the place of the old placer excitement of 1864. It is situated on Wildhorse Creek.

The latest reports from the molybdenite property at Gray Creek owned by the Swanson Brothers have averaged around 5 per cent., and this together with the size and length of the lead indicates that the deposit will be one of the most important in the district.

The claims are five in number, the Fortuna, Henry, Lova, Swan and Oden were staked in 1916. They are situated about half a mile from the end of the Lindsay subdivision. A road to serve the mine is now being built and will connect with the government road.

The formation of the deposit is a quartz lead in granite mixed with more or less iron. The lead is well defined and is 4½ feet wide. At the present time not much has been done on the property except development work and a few cuts to determine the size of the deposit.

As soon as the road to the mine is completed, according to Charles O. Swanson, the brothers will install the compressor that arrived about a week ago and this will furnish the power for air drills. It is their intention to drift in a 600-foot tunnel along the main lead and then crosscut 200

feet and so tap three smaller leads running parallel with the main lead.

The average assay of the rock broken during the course of development work shows 5 per cent. molybdenite, though some specimens taken out have run as high as 25 per cent. The ore is fairly free from other impurities and if it continues to keep up to the present standard a concentrator will be installed and the ore will be treated by oil flotation.

The output of the mine is bonded to the Imperial Munitions Board. Molybdenite is urgently needed at the present time for the manufacture of high speed steel, though before the war it was principally used for coloring glass and china. With the demands of the war there is a shortage both of molybdenite and wolframite, caused by the tremendous increase in the casting of big guns, in which connection molybdenite plays an important part.

The present price of molybdenite is \$4 per pound. A few deposits assaying one half of one per cent. are able to work at a slight profit, though most of the ore that has been shipped from the Province in the last few years has been special high grade hand picked rock, necessary on account of the concentrator able to handle it being in Ontario.

The Trojan Mines Company on Boulder Creek is drifting on a 12-inch seam of chalcopyrite carrying better than 25 per cent. copper and 10 ounces of silver. A large quantity of valuable ore is piled up for shipment as soon as the road up Boulder Creek is completed.

John Burman has a car of high grade silver-copper ore, that samples 1912 ounces of silver and 14 per cent. copper per ton. The ore is ready for shipment on completion of the Boulder Creek road.

The Canada Copper corporation has been engaged for three weeks in breaking ground for the concentrating mill at its Copper Mountain mine, the big raise from the deep tunnel is nearing a point half way to the upper level and railroad grading is in progress between Princeton and the mill site, according to Oscar Lachmund, general manager. The mill will have a floor area of 140 by 300 feet and will be composed of two units of 1,000 tons each. The plans contemplate the addition of units as conditions warrant.

R. R. Hedley, who has a bond on the Big Sioux copper property in the Aspen Grove, has two outfits hauling ore from the mine to Merritt station, to be shipped to the smelter.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Mineral Province of Western Canada

TO END OF DECEMBER, 1916

Has produced Minerals valued as follows: Placer Gold, \$74,620,103; Lode Gold, \$91,350,784; Silver, \$41,358,012; Lead, \$36,415,124; Copper, \$114,559,364; Other Metals (Zinc, Iron, etc.), \$7,212,759; Coal and Coke, \$165,829,315; Building Stone, Brick, Cement, etc., \$26,697,835; making its Mineral Production to the end of 1916 show an

Aggregate Value of \$558,560,715

Production for Year Ending December, 1916, \$42,290,462

The Mining Laws of this Province are more liberal and the fees lower than those of any other Province in the Dominion, or any colony in the British Empire.

Mineral locations are granted to discoverers for nominal fees.

Absolute Titles are obtained by developing such properties, the security of which is guaranteed by Crown Grants.

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VICTORIA, British Columbia.