

week, and month by month, my words become translated into hard facts. To-day I have to report that yet another smelter company has been formed and is as certain to make a vast fortune for its incorporators as can be predicted of any human enterprise. It is composed of Spokane men, in alliance with sundry mine-owners in the Trail Creek and Rossland districts. We are positively getting ahead of you and your ground, you see. And a fortnight ago we gave Rossland a direct continuous rail communication with Spokane by the completion of the Columbia and Red Mountain Railway, which is an extension of the Spokane and Northern.

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Another link in the chain of capture is being forged by some of our people who have of late been visiting your Trail Creek and Kootenay camps and arranging to establish concentrating works for the supply of our smelters in Wash-ton. Up to the present time little or no attention has been given in those camps to ores that have not gone over \$10 per ton. All such mineral is now being contracted for at nominal prices; and as there is scarcely a prospect of a mine in that country that is not producing more or less of such ore, it will not be difficult for contracts to be made which will keep the concentrating works running for many years. It is estimated, and with reason, that there are fully 2,000,000 tons on the dumps ready for concentration and reduction. The cost of treatment need not exceed \$2 per ton, so it requires no great amount of figuring to show that we shall once more spoil the Egyptians to a pretty good tune.

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Kamloops' Camp.

THE Kamloops (B.C.) district is looming up. Items of recent date in the *Inland Sentinel* state that work is to begin in earnest on the Lone Star and Whale, on Sugar-loaf mountain. An offer was made, it is said, two weeks ago by practical men to sink a 100-foot shaft, on a claim on Copper Flat, below the Iron Mask; the workers to retain the ore excavated, which is said to reach \$40 a ton on the surface. The Scott property has not been sold as reported. R. H. Lyons and George Macdonald are beginning development on the Bonanza and Pothook. The surface ore is purple copper. A short option has been given on the Bonnie Etta, no cash down, but work to be carried on continuously to an agreed depth.

F. P. Coney, of Rossland, has bonded five claims, surrounding the Lucky Strike on Coal Hill, for \$25,000. Work on several is to be commenced before the end of January.

Sixteen claims and six transfers were registered in the last week in December, within 7½ miles from Kamloops.

At the general meeting of the L. F. R. & C. G. F. Ltd., held in London, Horne-Payne, the managing director, in the course of his remarks made the following statement of interest to Kamloops camp: "The company own a group of cinnabar or quicksilver properties, located for them by one of their own prospectors. They were immediately adjoined by the properties of the Savonas Cinnabar Mining Company, and they were awaiting the results of the extensive development work now being carried on by the company. He understood that by an elaborate process of diamond drill tests they had proved the existence in their property of a very large number of tons of good-paying quicksilver ore, and they had recently put in construction and, he believed, nearly finished a large plant capable of retorting 150 flasks of quicksilver a day." Mr. J. A. Mara of this city was elected to fill a vacancy on the board of directors. Forbes George Vernon, our "agent general" attended the meet-

ing. He is one of the directors. Forbes George should resign his Government job if he is going to mix himself up with mining companies in an official capacity.

Work on the Iron Mask property, now transferred to the British and Canadian Gold and Silver Mine Company, goes steadily on. An important discovery was made one day lately at this mine, the ore being found on the west side of the dyke which was cut through on that day. This is one of the features of the Rossland veins; the dykes do not displace the vein, but ore is got as soon as the dyke is cut, on the opposite side.

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Around Barkerville.

AWAY up north, in the mountains of British Columbia, Barkerville is a promising centre of a gold mining district to which much capital has not yet been applied for its development. And then owing to the great elevation the cold of winter is often intense. A correspondent of the *Inland Sentinel*, of Kamloops, gives a few recent notes of work in the district. J. Marsh, well-known in the Cariboo district, has just started several men to work on a ledge three miles from Barkerville, and is also to open up the Black Jack ledge. On Island Mountain the Dupont and Dunlevy Co. are running a tunnel on the side of the mountain, and expect to strike the ledge within 25 feet. A stamp mill is in readiness to crush ore. On Stout's gulch J. Winthrop and the Houser brothers are working their tunnel and taking out gold. The pay gravel on the face of their tunnel and on the bed rock is said to be very rich. E. Shephard, on Shephard's creek, about five miles from Barkerville, did little last summer, having no water on account of the drought in the Cariboo, but made expenses. This winter he has five men running a prospect drift on each side of the creek, on side hills. He was building a reservoir, dams and ditches all summer, so as to be ready for next season. He said his record last summer was eighteen days hand-racking, \$400; twenty-five days shovelling in 288 ounces, and one month's work in a tunnel for one man, \$395.66. His wife in leisure hours, after attending to household duties, panned out within two months, \$273.50. Mr. Shephard says he has been offered sums in the tens of thousands, but has refused to sell. The ground is a basin with gradually sloping benches, and he says "the gold runs from the grass roots down."

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Alberni's Mines.

MR. C. A. GIBSON, of Victoria, B.C., in Toronto on a visit, was interviewed the other day by the *Toronto Mail and Empire*. He is largely interested in Kootenay mining. In regard to the Alberni district on Vancouver Island, he speaks highly. He says:

"The coast must be considered a great mining section, comparing favorably with the Kootenay. The Alberni district, which is situated about 140 miles north of Victoria, I consider to be just as good a location as the Kootenay, but lacks development. This, however, is being rapidly pushed forward, and a few weeks ago a test of the Alberni Consolidated Company gave \$18 per ton in free gold, besides sulphurets, which bring the value up to \$100 a ton. The Happy Day is close to the Alberni Consolidated and Minerva Consolidated. They belong to the Pacific Consolidated Gold Mining Company, and are among the most notable properties that are being worked on Mineral Hill. The Ace of Spades and Last Dollar are also being worked. The Quadra group, on Mineral Hill, has considerable development work going on. The Missing Link and Champion have the same rich vein as the Alberni, showing, however, a larger surface. The Mountain Rose is

having a 100-foot tunnel driven, and gives every indication of becoming a paying mine.

"On China Creek, the Duke of York mine, on which many thousands of dollars have been spent, has put in a perfect hydraulic plant, with shops and all complete. This mine promises to become the greatest on the coast.

"The mines of Alberni are very accessible, as they can be approached on all sides by the water. Most of the claims are also connected with the town of Alberni. On the west coast, by a fine waggon road. A new town site is in course of location at Alberni, and three or four new hotels are being erected. It is predicted that in a very short time Alberni will be another Rossland.

"The mines of Texada Island, in the Gulf of Georgia, are also profitable coast investments. They are situated about fifteen miles from Nanaimo, and eighty miles from Victoria, by water, and are controlled largely by Victoria and Chicago capitalists. The ore, which is mostly copper, runs as high as sixty and seventy per cent. The Van Ada is now shipping to the Tacoma smelter, and the results warrant even greater development work than is being carried on. Besides the Van Ada there are numerous other mines on the island which are rapidly coming to the front. Other mines on the coast than those at Texada Island are located in Philip's Arm and Howe Sound."

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Pannings.

NELSON. B.C., erected last year buildings to the value of \$138,750.

THE owners of mines in the Copper group, Boundary county, are to erect a private smelter.

FOURTEEN mines are shipping in the Kootenay, and the number is expected to rise to twenty-five or more by the 1st of April.

In the Ominica district of the Cariboo Country, two companies are operating, the Cariboo Hydraulic and the Horse Fly, which cleaned up last season \$146,000.

THE Slocan Star silver mine paid \$50,000 in dividends in 1895, and \$250,000 in 1896. This beats the LeRoi at Rossland. The Slocan Star workings are down 400 feet, and a tunnel is being driven, to tap the ledge at 600 feet.

THE Golden Cache mine, about 150 miles from Kootenay, was selling stock last spring at 15 cents. The stock is now quoted at \$1.80. The mine is said to be very promising. The Mayflower adjoining, is said to be developing well. The section is close to the C.P.R. line.

ENGLISH capital is beginning to flow into the Sandon, B.C., district. The Victoria mine has been bonded for \$25,000. Mr. Foster, an Englishman, recently bought two-thirds of the Ruth mine, which is about 1,000 feet above Sandon to the south. It was located in 1892, has been worked less than two years and Mr. Foster's purchase was on a basis of \$250,000 value for the four claims; Ruth, Ruth Fraction, Hope and Despair.

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THE total output of coal by the Vancouver Island collieries during the past year amounted to 854,269 tons, divided as follows:—Wellington Colliery Co., 321,530; N. V. C. Co., 320,900; Union Colliery Co., 202,839. The output is close on 100,000 tons short of that of the previous year.

AGENTS WANTED.

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