

Two new zinc separators were received at the Kootenay Ore Company's works last month, and are to be installed immediately. These machines were manufactured by the Ding and Electric Zinc Separator Co. of Milwaukee. Shipments of zinc ore will shortly be made to these sampling works by the Jackson and Ruth mines.

Mr. John Keen of Kaslo, acting as agent for a client, purchased last month from the lessees their lease of the Bell Mine in Jackson Basin, afterwards purchasing the property outright from the owners for \$10,000. The property is said to be an exceptionally promising one, containing a good showing of silver, lead and zinc ores.

The Slocan Star continues to make a heavy production of zinc, which recently averaged about 630 tons per month. This ore carries 35 per cent. in zinc and 45 oz. silver. The mill is being operated with double shift.

The California mine, near New Denver, has been acquired by a German syndicate on a working bond covering a period of 16 months. The properties will be operated under the direction of Mr. W. Brenner, in conjunction with the adjacent Molly Hughes group.

East Kootenay.—The output from the Sullivan mine now averages about 140 tons per day, while the mine is also being systematically developed. At the North Star, in this section, prospecting work is now in progress. Shipments from the St. Eugene mine in July aggregated 2,700 tons of concentrates, from which were produced 1,060,072 pounds of lead. The new compressor plant has been successfully installed at the mine, and additional machine drills will shortly be operated. At the Lake Shore the shaft has been sunk to a further distance of 100 feet, and an extensive programme for developing the property is planned.

A group of copper claims, situated north of St. Mary's Lake, known as the Uncle Sam and High Peak, are being extensively developed, and promise well. The vein is said to have an average width of 12 feet, while copper values run from 11 to 38 per cent.

There are said to be some six properties in the Windermere district from which shipments will be made this season. At the "Paradise" development work is in active progress, while at the "Ptarmigan" active operations will be commenced as soon as transportation facilities, which, it is expected, will be afforded by the construction of the Kootenay Central Railway, shall have been provided.

A second stack was blown in last month at the Sullivan smelter at Marysville, thus affording these works a capacity equal to any at present in operation in the Kootenays.

YUKON.

The whole of the Yukon district has felt the scarcity of water this season very severely, and in consequence the gold production is expected to be less than last year. Last month there was one or two heavy rainfalls that assisted matters to some extent, but not sufficiently so to materially affect the outlook. On Gold Bottom there has been much activity recently.

On Dominion Creek many of the operators are using petroleum engines, which appear to be giving very good satisfaction, chiefly as they give less trouble than steam or gasoline, and in the Yukon at least, are found to be more economical, a 10 h.p. engine consuming 15 gallons of oil in 12 hours.

The Conrad Company, at White Horse, is now preparing to construct an aerial tramway at its property at Little Windy Arm. The company has also purchased a group of 14 additional claims, on some of which the surface showings are said to be promising.

THE TROUBLES OF A BRITISH COLUMBIA DREDGING COMPANY.

Legal action has been commenced by some of the shareholders of the Iowa-Lillooet Gold Mining Co. to obtain possession of the assets consisting of dredging leases and a dredge which have been taken over by the mortgagees. The company was formed by Iowa promoters some three or four years ago, and incorporated under the laws of the

Province, with a capital subscribed of \$125,000. The dredge at first was not successfully operated, and at considerable cost was remodelled. In consequence, the company became involved and was obliged to give a mortgage of \$10,000 to the manufacturers of the dredge. Later they got into the hands of a firm of eastern financiers, who took a second mortgage on the property of \$12,000, and then, acquiring the first, proceeded to seize the property. While there is nothing apparently unusual or suspicious in this procedure, some of the shareholders allege that they have secured evidence to prove that the eastern financial firm in question has merely acted in the matter as the agents for other shareholders in the undertaking who have taken these steps to buy in the property at a very cheap rate, and "freeze out" others jointly interested. Application has meanwhile been made for a winding-up order, which has been granted.

COAL MINING NOTES.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Coal production statistics for the first six months of the current year, from Nova Scotia, show a slight falling off as compared with the returns of the corresponding period of 1904, thus: the Dominion Coal Company shipped 1,156,586 tons, as against 1,218,525 tons; Cumberland Railway and Coal Company, 187,675 tons, as against 204,543 tons; Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, 196,653 tons, as against 206,376 tons; Inverness Railway and Coal Company, 74,669 tons, as against 56,081 tons; Intercolonial Coal Company, 121,368 tons, as against 88,080 tons; and Acadia Coal Company, 115,291 tons, as against 123,097 tons.

It is expected that the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co.'s output for 1905 will be a record achievement. Coal, meanwhile, will be taken, it is thought from the new collieries in a few weeks' time. During August a contract was made with the Montreal Sugar Refinery for 25,000 tons of picked coal as a first consignment.

Shipments from the Cumberland Railway & Coal Co.'s collieries for the month of August were 39,203 tons.

On August 28th a fire broke out at the Dominion Coal Co.'s washing plant, near Port Morien, and before it was extinguished damage to the extent of about \$5,000 had been sustained.

Mr. James Ross, president of the Dominion Coal Co., recently made a detailed inspection of the collieries, in consequence of which it was decided to abandon the south slope in the Dominion No. 6 Colliery, and to operate the Emery seam. The latter mine will be worked on the "long wall" system, which may be very largely adopted in the future working of the collieries. Sinking at Donkinville to tap the seam was commenced on August 31st, the Emery at this point underlying the Phalen seam at a depth of about 135 feet. The recent resumption of mining on this seam at Reserve also points to the fact that the company intend a vigorous prosecution of the work. The Emery is more variable than the Phalen, running from something over three feet in thickness up to ten feet in the old workings near No. 6 Colliery. The new shaft is being sunk near the north slope of No. 6, and work will be actively prosecuted.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Experiments have been recently conducted in Victoria by Prof. T. S. C. Lowe, of California, to ascertain the value of Vancouver Island coal in connection with a new coking process. Prof. Lowe, it is said, is interested in securing a steady supply of coke for use in California smelting and other industries.

A strike which was threatened at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co.'s collieries during August was settled by the general superintendent, Mr. Drinnan, in the absence of the general manager, Mr. Lindsay, acceding to the men's demands, which, however, must be confirmed by Mr. Lindsay upon his return. The terms agreed upon were as follows:—