

part of the Similkameen district. The company mentioned is very desirous of obtaining new sources of ore supply for its large smelting works at Greenwood, Boundary district, so may be depended upon to give the Voight property a fair test within the bounds of expenditure fixed by its directors. Its success in finding here large bodies of ore of a sufficiently high copper con-

tent for profitable smelting would conduce to the considerable advantage of both the company and the district.

The construction and equipment of cement works at East Princeton is in progress, and it is hoped that the manufacture of cement will be commenced before the close of 1912.

GENERAL MINING NEWS

ONTARIO.

THE T. & N. O. FREIGHT RATES.

(From the Daily Cobalt Nugget.)

It is persistently rumoured that the T. & N. O. Commission will announce a decided reduction in the freight rates within a few days, and while nothing official has come out in regard to the matter the impression is very general that the requests of the people of this north country are to be met in a fair manner and a very much needed cut made in the freight rates.

In the event that this proves to be the case it will be a matter of decided congratulation on the part of this north country. The freight charges are a heavy item in the cost of doing business here. When the rates are exorbitant it makes it almost impossible for the Northern Ontario business men to meet outside competition. Relief has been asked for repeatedly from the T. & N. O. Commission and even if it has been slow in coming it will be none the less welcome when it does arrive.

The general impression has been that the government owned railway opening up this north country has been excessive in its freight charges. It is fair to admit though that privately owned roads through new sections of the country also charge excessive rates, and possibly Northern Ontario has not been any more burdened than in that section of New Ontario west from Sudbury for an equal distance towards the Soo.

The people along the T. & N. O. have always claimed this distinction though, that the volume of business should make some difference in the freight rates and that in view of the fact that this north country provides many times the business that the section west of Sudbury does that the T. & N. O. should recognize this fact and cut the rates in accordance. The T. & N. O. Commission cannot complain of the amount of business that this north country has given the railroad. It has been ten times as great as the expectations when the building of the railroad was commenced. The mining industry is responsible for the greater share of the business and it looks as though the mining industry will keep on increasing instead of showing any falling off for many years to come. That is, as the older camps get down to a milling proposition which reduces freight requirements, new camps will more than keep up the general average.

When the new rates are officially announced there will be general rejoicing among the shippers of this north country and it is to be hoped that the reduction will result in a far larger amount of business being done.

Cobalt, February 9.—One hundred and thirty-one bars of silver bullion, of a total value of \$79,257, were sent out of the Cobalt camp during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, which comes very near being a record three days' shipment. The rush is largely due to the fact that the Nipissing reduction plant has resumed operations, and that, owing to the high price of silver, all the mines which can ship are doing so. For the three days the total ounces shipped are as follows:—Nipissing, 70,190; O'Brien, 19,570; Crown Reserve, 18,000. The ore shipments last week were also particularly heavy, totalling 18 cars, of which 16 were high-grade ore.

Port Arthur.—The Silver Cross Mines, Limited, a company which has had no success in the Cobalt district, has secured control of a property near Port Arthur. This new property consists of 320 acres in the district of Thunder Bay. It is 2½ miles distant from the C.P.R. main line. The Canadian Northern will go through the property. The station, "Silver Harbour," will be built on the property. There have been several working mines in the district, but owing to difficulty of transportation and other obstacles, all the mines were closed down about 1890. The financial plan of campaign is unique. In order to secure funds to develop the property an issue of 8 per cent. \$100,000 of ore certificates, and with each dollar invested in ore certificates, a bonus of one share, par value \$1.00 of Silver Cross stock will be given free. The ore certificates are redeemable at their face value par.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

INVESTIGATION OF PRICE OF COAL.

Nelson (From The Daily News, Nelson, B.C.)—In Nelson and the Kootenays, in common with many other districts in British Columbia, the price of coal is a burning question. To householders the cost of fuel is a considerable item in living expenses, and there is a general impression that the price charged to the consumer is altogether out of proportion to the cost of production.

The matter has been taken up on several occasions by the Nelson Board of Trade and there is a strong desire that the whole matter should be the subject of thorough investigation. The retailers disclaim any responsibility for the exorbitant price that is apparently being charged, and whether the high price is due to an excessive charge at the pit's mouth, to extravagant transportation rates, or to inordinate profits of dealers through whose hands the fuel passes can only be conjectured. There was hope that evidence taken before the conciliation board at the time of the recent strike would throw much needed light upon the subject, but that anticipation was disappointed and the need for investigation remains as urgent as before.

There is now assurance that an enquiry will be put into effect, and if it discloses an imposition upon the public some method will doubtless be found of giving relief. Last year, while the Laurier government held office at Ottawa a petition, strongly endorsed by the provincial government, was sent to the minister of trade and commerce petitioning the Dominion authorities to inaugurate a thorough investigation into the question of the price of coal, but the federal administration made no move and nothing was done. There has since been a change of government at Ottawa and the advisability of taking action will in due course be taken into consideration by the new cabinet.

There is no reason to believe that the Ottawa government will decline the investigation which is sought, but even should it do so an enquiry is now assured. Premier McBride's statement in the legislature is explicit. He believes that an investigation is a duty that should be undertaken by the Dominion