

being pushed ahead on both of them. Mr. A. E. Humphreys, the representative of a Duluth syndicate, who holds many large properties in this district, has bonded the Starlight. This claim has a ledge which contains a quantity of free milling gold quartz. Its owners had done sufficient work upon it to prove the ledge for over 500 feet, and since Mr. Humphreys has taken it, the further work he has done has had such good results that he is about to put in a stamp mill to treat the ore on the spot. The Princess, a claim on the waggon road containing a copper ore with gold, has also been recently bonded to Mr. McVicar, of the No. 1 mine at Ainsworth. The creeks flowing down from the mountains are all more or less auriferous. On the north west a local hydraulic company has established works on Forty-Nine Creek, which are now in full swing. After the first 120 hours' work, which consisted largely of removing boulders and other "dead" work, \$5,000 was picked up off the bed rock in front of the sluice boxes, and out of the first two or three boxes themselves. The company has a practically unlimited head of water at a height of 300 feet in length.

Dredging.

The big dredger now lying near the mouth of the Thompson is being fitted up for use at an early day. The mammoth plant is as perfect a piece of workmanship as can be turned out in America, all the work being done at the B. C. Iron works at Vancouver. The owners of this plant are a stock company, M. H. Alsworth, President; J. B. Hemrock, Secretary. There has been a long course of litigation about the property but it is now settled and the plant will be taken across the river and set to work on a bar at that point. We hope in this way the dredging of the Fraser river will be carried on, and the question of successful work on the bottom of British Columbia rivers forever set at rest. If one-fourth of the gravel can be raised that is claimed for this plant, and the claim seems more than reasonable, the results are sure.

The Clearwater Country.

The next country to receive the attention of mining men and prospectors is the Clearwater region, which lies easterly from the Horsefly. So far we know of only one party having gone that way this year, and it is a question if that party was outfitted for anything like an extended trip. From all the courses and trends of the gold-bearing gravel it is more than likely that the Clearwater region, especially to the south eastward of the headwaters of Horsefly river and also eastward there are to be found the alluvial gravels so dear to the heart of the prospector. Indeed, a hunter who has spent some months in what is commonly called the Clearwater country, stated that the creek beds showed quartz gravel in great quantity; also, that the exposed places and all slides on the mountain showed vast quantities of wash gravel, while in plain view, wherever the rock was found uncovered, was to be seen quartz veins, while all over the mountains was to be found great quantities of float quartz.

It is more than probable that the Clearwater country has not been prospected. As a matter of fact, the limits of prospecting in that direction have usually ended with the Horsefly, for the very reason that the country spoken of is through an unbroken and intricate forest that gets more dense as one proceeds easterly from the Horsefly. The original trip from the Fraser to the Horsefly was an exceedingly difficult undertaking, and enough "grub" had to be carried to insure the prospectors a supply till they got back to the Fraser, which at that time was the base of supplies. Then, too, it was not deemed expedient or worth while to go on into the Clearwater region, as there was plenty of ground to be prospected and worked nearer the base of supplies in the Horsefly, Quesnelle, Stanley and Barkerville districts. In fact, even at this day, more than twenty-five years gone by has not sufficed to work out the regions named, and the new capital going in and the developments going on are still absorbing most of the surplus money and energy that goes into Cariboo, without hunting for new finds.

But the restless prospector cannot content himself with the old "stamping ground" and must find new regions on which

to expend his energy, so that now the Clearwater is coming in for his attention.

The gold bearing zone appears to trend northwesterly from the Quesnelle, Stanley and Barkerville. As far as prospected it appears to travel southeasterly from the same points. Gold bearing gravels, or rather alluvial gravels bearing gold have been found on the trend northwesterly to an indefinite distance; also, after getting into the Kootenay country, a long distance and even through Montana and Wyoming in the United States.—*B. C. Mining Journal*.

General Notes.

The B. C. Iron Works Co. are contemplating sending the plant of the late Westminster foundry, which they bought out, up to the Kootenay, where they intend to erect workshops. The machinery is at present lying on their wharf.

*

ELECTRICITY IN MINES.—An invention designed to provide motive power for the gold fields of Western Australia has been patented by two gentlemen of Glasgow, Scotland. The invention contemplates a substitution of electricity and compressed air for the water now in use. The Rothschilds and the Government of Western Australia have become interested in the patent, and a company will be formed with a capital larger than that of any stock company organised within the century.

*

The Provincial Minister of Mines, Hon. Col. Baker, has decided to hold examinations qualifying those who pass them to act as assayers in British Columbia. The first of these examinations will shortly take place, when candidates will be required to satisfy the examiners in assaying for gold, silver, copper, lead and iron, and in answering several theoretical questions. This is a move in the right direction, as in the future assayers and chemists will be required to show their competency before circulating certificates as to the value of samples sent them, which in some cases, at present, are apt to be misleading.

*

THREE CARIBOO GRAVES.—In the little cemetery at Quesnelle Forks, lie side by side the remains of two Jews and a Frenchman, who were murdered on Bald mountain in 1862, says the *Mining Journal* of Ashcroft. This party had in their possession gold to the amount of over \$40,000, which, of course, was the cause of their destruction. Many of the old timers remember the excitement occasioned by this affair, but no one can be found who knew the names of these men, who lost their lives in the wild rush for the yellow metal. The murderers were never apprehended in this country, but, years after, an individual, just before being hanged for horse theft in Washington or Idaho, confessed that he and another man committed the crime above referred to. To-day, cottonwood trees, six inches in diameter, grow in the little plot between and around the graves, and mingle their roots with the dust of those unknown men who so tragically passed away 33 years ago.

The Rich Kootenay.

BY HON. COL. BAKER.

Hon. Col. Baker, Minister of Mines in British Columbia, recently paid a visit to the Kootenay District, and the following is an account given by him of his trip:

"I diverted my route by way of East and West Kootenay, in order to inspect those interesting portions of the Province. The general indications of healthy progress I witnessed is very cheering, and the quartz-mining industry in many portions of the district of Southwest Kootenay is now so far developed as to leave no doubt whatever of the enormous mineral wealth of British Columbia.

"I left the Canadian Pacific Railway at Golden, in East Kootenay, a town which is kept busy by supplying the railway with 'ties,' two train loads of which leave daily, while the