

Monte Cristo, Iron Colt and others are working steadily and much progress is being made. A large body of ore was recently struck in the Iron Colt, which, if it makes good the promise of its discovery, will go far towards placing that mine on Columbia and Kootenay Mountain in the front rank of the foremost mines of the camp. A good strike, the extent of which is as yet not thoroughly known, has recently been made in the Evening Star. The Le Roi has fewer men working at present than it had some few weeks past, but its staff is soon to be increased. It is yet the largest shipper of the camp. The War Eagle has been shipping some small quantities of ore for fluxing purposes, but the main body is being withheld in accordance with the policy it has entered into in conjunction with some of its neighbours pending the solution of the transportation difficulty. The Velvet, the new mine on Sophia Mountain, close on the International Boundary Line, has sent ten ton of ore to the smelter that its value may be ascertained. Much money has lately been expended on this new property and a more than commensurate return is confidently expected. Until a short time ago few in camp believed in Sophia Mountain claims since the diorite formation with its familiar iron capping prevailing on the older and better known mines near at hand, is there absent, its place being taken by a puzzling porphyritic conglomerate. Sir Charles Tupper has invested largely in this property and his example has been followed by others with neighbouring claims. It thus seems probable that quite a thriving camp will spring up next year on Big Sheep Creek. Nor will there be much trouble in getting a railroad near to the camp as the Red Mountain line passes across the mouth of the valley.

The O.K. mine is still lying idle. Not long ago, indeed, it is but a very few months, this mine was regarded as one of the very best in camp. Early in the summer it borrowed money from a Spokane bank which then became the dominant factor in the directorate. The next news was that the large body of ore in sight was said to be "illusiv"; next, the mine was bankrupt. It is, however, hard to persuade some of the older hands but that the O.K. is really one of the best properties about Rossland, if properly looked after. The Spokane bank people aver that they are but looking after their own interests. Without gainsaying them the mine people declare that it was the action taken by the bank that compelled bankruptcy. The concern is now in the hands of a liquidator, but when the matter is cleared up or whitewashed it will be a surprising circumstance if something good is not made of the mine after all.

The Silver Bell, behind the O.K., has sent a small shipment to the Trail Smelter and if the test is satisfactory the company may place their venture on the shipping list. The Wallingford, which has been worked steadily for nearly two years despite its situation on Record Mountain, 3,000 feet above Rossland, is now shut down, being under the option of an English syndicate. Another British company has purchased the Buckeye and intends to convert the property into a real mine this winter.

The suit between the Centre Star and the Iron Mask *re* the real ownership of a ledge whose apex outcrops near the boundary line between the two mines is to be settled in Nelson. This case arises out of the old mining law under the provision of which both these claims were originally located.

The White Bear, on which much steady work has been performed, will resume operations with an increased staff about the end of November.

On the south belt the outlook is every bit as inviting. From the Crown Point half way down Trail Creek Valley to the Lily May at its head activity is rampant. The Lily May has had a good deal of new machinery installed and Sunset No. 2 has followed suit. The Abe Lincoln adjoining the Sunset on Deer Park Mountain is also getting in good work and putting in improvements. The Homestead claims on the middle of the belt are, it is true, at present lying idle, but it will not be for long. There has been some hitch in the option which was granted by the proprietors to a London firm. This, it is expected, will shortly be straightened out and work for the winter will be resumed on this magnificent property.

On Sunday, the 17th October, a party ran over the now completed railway between Trail and Robson in three-quarters of an hour. The line will shortly be opened for general traffic. Parallel to this railroad, but not touching Trail itself, the C.P.R. surveyors are still at work so that it is expected that the locked up mines in camp will presently have an opportunity of redeeming their boast of their ability to eclipse the Le Roi. News reached the camp that the Crow's Nest line, which is expected to pull through by the end of next year, is to have no greater grade than one in 100. This, if correct, would seem to infer that a through line to the Coast is the object on which its projectors are bent. Now, as the cost of living in Rossland is quite twenty per cent. higher than in similar mining camps over the border, if adequate railroad communication be given us to the coal fields to the east and to the ranching country to the west of us, there is no doubt that the help thus afforded would not only materially lighten production, but would also cheapen food stuffs. A through line is therefore absolutely necessary to us. Let it come at any cost, say some, but far-seeing heads growl at the price exacted, just the same. The land grabber who insists on the 20,000 acre grant per mile and the accompanying subsidy of \$4,000 is extorting an usurious rate of interest for a very safe investment. Still, if the Government, who are supposed to safeguard the interests of the people are willing, it seems to some of us, too willing, to pay this price, it will have to go at that. Yet with the examples patent to the British Columbian of watered stock and over capitalization in this country on one hand and of governmentally guaranteed railways on the other it seems passing strange that Premier Turner *et cie* cannot think out a more workable plan than the present scheme of giving away the rights of not only the present but of unborn generations. We are fond of borrowing money which is to be left to our descendants to pay, but we are not scrupulous enough as to restrict the lavishing away of lands which they will have to do without in meeting those very bills. A splendid example is before the English-speaking world afforded by the at present much-abused government of India. There the government has succeeded by limiting its capitalizations and guaranteeing interest in establishing a series of excellent railways running at lower rates than any other in the world. And that despite the fact that the interest guaranteed has to be four per cent., whereas Canada can get a loan at two and a half subscribed twice