

MINES AND MINING

Opposition to Rossland to the Imposition of an Export Duty on Ores.

The Trail Smelter Turns Out Its First Gold Ingot—A Good Clondyke in Rossland.

Rossland's Attitude—Editor Race, of Nelson Miner, on Agitation for Imposition of the Duty.

Week in Kaslo—An Interesting Suit at New Westminster—Notes From Nakusp.

Nelson, Aug. 10.—As a result of Prof. Carlyle's tramp around the different sections of West Kootenay, an amendment to the mineral act may be expected during the next session of the legislature. Throughout the entire district, but more especially in outlying districts, he has observed a tendency on the part of claim owners to cheat the provisions of the mineral act dealing with the performance of assessment work upon claims. Though the present act is most liberal, in that it admits of the recording of locations before performing any development work whatever, there is a disposition on the part of some owners to skirt the annual assessment, falling due within the year following the location of claims by a system of re-locating. The effect of this is that large areas are staked off and no work is performed beyond the annual location of claims in the district—Trout Lake—Mr. Carlyle came across one individual who was holding sixty claims. These men are unable to do the necessary development work themselves, and by evading the same, they stand in the way of those who are willing and able to do the necessary development. This system naturally tends to retard all new districts. To overcome the difficulty, Professor Carlyle is of the opinion that the mineral act should be amended so that before a location can be filed in the record office the locator of a claim should be required to perform \$100 worth of work. As the opinion of Mr. Carlyle will no doubt be of considerable weight with the minister of mines, some such amendment may be made to the mineral act next session, unless Prof. Carlyle can be induced to change his mind in this respect before the legislature meets.

Those Scientists

Interview With One of the Party Who Were on the Mexico.

Here is a special dispatch from Port Townsend to the Seattle P.-I., which will be of special interest to the Colonist, which refused to believe the story in the Times about a party of scientists looting their specimens, notes and instruments in the wreck of the Mexico. "Among the passengers on the steamer Mexico when she struck on West Devil's rock in Dixon's entrance, on last Thursday morning, was a party of scientists from Columbia College, all young men from New York city, as follows: Prof. Gary Calkins, J. H. McGregor, F. Paul Keppel, E. B. Wilson, Francis Lloyd, Bradley E. Griffith and R. N. Harrington. This is their second season on the Pacific coast, and they had been port Townsend their headquarters, and successfully prosecuted their study of the marine inhabitants of Puget Sound waters. They came again in June of this year, and four weeks ago went to the Sound to consider our waters. Regarding the trip down, Mr. Harrington, who spoke for the party, said: "We were very successful with our work in Alaskan waters. A large number of splendid specimens were secured, some of them of a nature not previously unclassified. Although we had by no means exhausted the field, we had more than enough material to keep us busy for the remainder of the season, and decided to return home and work on our collections, notes and books were all in the vessel's hold, and were lost. We lost all our instruments and paraphernalia for making collections, and these cannot be replaced on the Pacific coast. It is a pity that the season's work practically lost. The work is so important, from a scientific point of view, that we will undoubtedly be sent out again next summer to take it up. Prof. Calkins was accompanied by wife on the trip north, and she was one of the bravest women on board the Mexico at the time of the accident."

Victoria Markets

Wholesale quotations for farmers' produce carefully corrected. Victoria, August 10th. In the city this week there has been several changes in some of the lines—grocery. Flour has jumped up, and from the present indications it has a tendency to go higher. The cause of this is the great demand for flour from outside the city. For the same reason barley, middlings, bran and similar produce have all gone up. Butter is another article that has been advanced, but this will only affect the retail price, the advance has not been sufficient to raise the price of the selling price. The prices, as quoted in the city market this morning are as follows: Wheat, per ton, \$35 to \$37.50; Barley, per ton, \$26 to \$28; Middlings, per ton, \$20 to \$22; Bran, per ton, \$18 to \$20; Ground feed, per ton, \$26 to \$28; Corn, whole, \$25 to \$27; Corn, cracked, \$23 to \$25; Rolled oats, (O. or N. V.), \$20 to \$22; Rolled oats, (B. & K.) 7th sacks, \$20 to \$22; New potatoes, per lb., 10c to 12c; Cabbage, per head, 10c to 12c; Cauliflower, per head, 10c to 12c; Corn, per doz., 25c to 30c; Hay, baled, per ton, \$15 to \$18; Straw, per bale, 50c to 75c; Onions, per lb., 10c to 12c; Beans, 25c to 30c; Lemons (California), 25c to 30c; Apples, per lb., 10c to 12c; Oranges, Cal. seedlings, 40c to 50c; Grapes, 10c to 12c; Tomatoes, 10c to 12c; Plums, 10c to 12c; Peaches, 10c to 12c; Pineapples, 25c to 30c; Watermelons, 40c to 50c; Mushrooms, 25c to 30c; Fish—small, 10c to 12c; Fish—large, 10c to 12c; Eggs, Manitoba, 25c to 30c; Butter, creamery, per lb., 30c; Butter, Delta, creamery, per lb., 25c; Butter, fresh, 25c to 30c; Cheese, Canadian, 15c to 20c; Cheese, California, 15c to 20c; Hams, American, per lb., 10c to 12c; Hams, Canadian, per lb., 10c to 12c; Bacon, American, per lb., 10c to 12c; Bacon, Canadian, per lb., 10c to 12c; Sausages, 10c to 12c; Lard, 10c to 12c; Hides, 10c to 12c; Meats—beef, per pound, 10c to 12c; Mutton, per pound, 10c to 12c; Chicken, whole, 10c to 12c; Pork, sides, per lb., 10c to 12c; Chickens, per pair, \$1.00 to \$1.50.

THE DUNCAN RIVER COUNTRY.

Duncan City, Aug. 9.—J. A. McVie has just returned from his claim on Bear creek. He has found three more ledges on the Mesaba claim, all of which run higher than the discovery ledge, which assayed 80 ounces and \$6.80 in gold. Notwithstanding the low stage of water in the Upper Duncan, the streamer Idaho has as yet experienced no difficulty in making her usual semi-weekly trips. Johnson & Hill, the assayers of Duncan City, report business in a flourishing condition. Mr. Towney and partners have returned from development work on their claims on Howser creek. They report an improvement in the grade of their ore in the last few feet of drifting, and Mr. Anderson, manager of the Gold Hill Company, has started development work on the company's claims on Howser creek. This company has now nearly fifty claims on the Upper Duncan, and which they intend developing in the near future. Now that the Upper Duncan river has proved navigable, the government should lose no time in cleaning it of snags and sweepers. They are only averted now with the utmost difficulty—Kootenay.

NEAR NEW DENVER.

New Denver, Aug. 10.—Much apprehension is felt here for the silver prospecting camp since the decline of the white metal. The general opinion seems to be that if the price of silver remains low the Sloan will experience a repetition of the panicky days of 1892-93. However, there is no evidence yet given by the large working mines that they have considered the matter in a serious light, and work is progressing as usual. Should there be a general cessation of work on silver properties here the camp will receive a serious setback. At the present time all other lines of business with improvement are pushing ahead. The contract for building the railroad road to Three Forks was let to Foss & McDonald, local builders, on a percentage basis. Four bids were received between the highest and lowest, bid \$1,100 per mile—the committee concluded to reject all bids. The basis on which the road will be built will be at 75 per cent of the actual cost of the building, to furnish all working appliances and men, everything but the powder and fuse. It is estimated the cost of the road will be \$1,400 per mile, or a total cost of about \$7,000. More than usual interest has been shown this week in railroad building. A party of surveyors for the Kaslo & Sloan road are on the hill above town selecting a route down the lake. The present survey puts the road high up on the mountain, about half way between the Mountain Chief and California mines. It is said the road will be started this fall and will run straight through to Ten-Mile. Its completion would be of inestimable value to the Coquille creek mines and those on California mountain and Four and Ten-Mile. The fact that a sampler is soon to be erected at Rosebery has greatly stimulated interest in that bar and in mining properties on Wilson creek and on the mountain on the lake shore north of New Denver. The ores taken from the Mollie Hughes group and claims adjoining run high in gold and silver and are considered valuable holdings. The sampler is to be erected within a mile or two, it will be an easy matter to work these properties; also those on the Wilson creek.

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Mr. E. F. Clinton, who appeared for the defendant, stated in a clear manner the case of his client. After hearing the evidence on both sides, his honor put the following questions to the jury: 1. Did the plaintiffs, or their solicitor, Mr. Cherry, offer the recorder, Mr. Shepard, the legal fee for recording the O. K. claim on January 7th, 1897? A—Yes. 2. Was the O. K. claim marked out in such a way as to be calculated to mislead intending locators, or not? A—No. 3. Are the claims identical or not? A—Yes. Signed by the foreman, Edward Johnson. The jury were out only 15 minutes, and their verdict was in favor of the plaintiffs, Francoeur and McDonald. Mr. Cherry, for Mr. Macdonell, counsel for the plaintiffs, then moved for judgment, and Mr. Clinton, for defendant, moved for a non-suit. Both motions were adjourned for argument, date to be fixed.

IN EAST KOOTENAY.

Ben. Abel, a well known mining man in East Kootenay, says that there are changed times since 1896. In that year store keepers would not give the prospector credit for a single sack of flour on any of their prospects on any conditions, but the state of matters is entirely different now—store keepers have more faith in the country. They now know that there is wealth that must be discovered and developed, and that can only be done in the first place by the man who as a rule has not much money, the prospector. Store keepers will not lose in the long run by the system of credit to the prospector. When the prospector gets the wealth he pays up honestly and faithfully. That is our experience of the man. There is considerable development work going on now all over East Kootenay. Prospectors in order to hold their claims, must do the necessary assessment work; while investors, whether individuals or syndicates, who have acquired claims, are desirous of finding out by proper development work the precise nature and value of their investment. In Golden division there has been a scarcity of labor, and also inadequate means of transporting supplies; whereas in Fort Steele labor appears to be plentiful. Golden division could be doing with some of the surplus labor in Fort Steele. Laborers who are working claims have a tendency to over estimate the value of their service, and expect a higher rate of remuneration than they can obtain elsewhere in any form of employment. Very few of them have any skill as practical miners, and if the country is to be opened up and developed, they will require to be a little more moderate in their demands until the wealth has been finally obtained. The way to get a getting labor from elsewhere at more reasonable rates, or the development on a more limited extent of the great mineral resources of the district. Capital can easily do without labor, but labor cannot exist without capital. On the Freeman group of claims, situated three miles on the south of Tracy creek and about five miles from Wassau, in Fort Steele mining division, there is to be \$800 of development work expected. The claims are gold, silver and copper. Assays have been got of \$19.80 per ton in gold and 15 per cent in copper. There has been no assay for silver. The principal ledge is apparently about eight feet thick, and contains a high percentage of the appearance of a true fissure vein, as it cuts the formation right in two. It can be traced through the whole claim. The work is to be commenced immediately, and is so consist in the first place of an open cut, to ascertain the width of the vein, after which it shall be cross-cut to test its character. Then a shaft will be sunk of sufficient depth to find out the value of the property. Messrs. Mitchell and Brothers have just come down from Windermere, where they have been busy making preparations to commence development work on some very promising claims they possess in that mining division. In Tracy creek they have three claims, the Dragon, St. George and the Vulcan. The St. George and the Vulcan, which are adjoining claims, are on the opposite side of the creek, about two and a half miles from the Columbia river. The Dragon is twelve miles higher up the creek. The character of the ore of this claim is copper and silver, with gold. An assay of 26 per cent of copper has been obtained, and with the silver gives a yield of over \$100 per ton. The development work will consist of driving a tunnel six feet by four feet upon the main ledge, which is already in thirty-eight feet. The St. George and the Vulcan contain similar ore claims. The Mitchell-Innes Brothers have also a very fine claim on Horse Thief creek, in the same mining division. It is called the Pretty Girl. It is a copper proposition, carrying silver. The ore is as high as 35 per cent. From an assay made of the ore from this claim the very satisfactory result of \$80 per ton was obtained. The necessary assessment work is now being done on this claim. There have been some fine locations made on this creek. It, and Toby creek, a neighboring stream, possess some of the best mineral wealth we have ever seen from the Windermere mining division. The Miner wishes the Mitchell-Innes Brothers great success. They evidently know and the Miner knows they have got hold of a good thing in these properties.—East Kootenay Miner.

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Ben. Abel, a well known mining man in East Kootenay, says that there are changed times since 1896. In that year store keepers would not give the prospector credit for a single sack of flour on any of their prospects on any conditions, but the state of matters is entirely different now—store keepers have more faith in the country. They now know that there is wealth that must be discovered and developed, and that can only be done in the first place by the man who as a rule has not much money, the prospector. Store keepers will not lose in the long run by the system of credit to the prospector. When the prospector gets the wealth he pays up honestly and faithfully. That is our experience of the man. There is considerable development work going on now all over East Kootenay. Prospectors in order to hold their claims, must do the necessary assessment work; while investors, whether individuals or syndicates, who have acquired claims, are desirous of finding out by proper development work the precise nature and value of their investment. In Golden division there has been a scarcity of labor, and also inadequate means of transporting supplies; whereas in Fort Steele labor appears to be plentiful. Golden division could be doing with some of the surplus labor in Fort Steele. Laborers who are working claims have a tendency to over estimate the value of their service, and expect a higher rate of remuneration than they can obtain elsewhere in any form of employment. Very few of them have any skill as practical miners, and if the country is to be opened up and developed, they will require to be a little more moderate in their demands until the wealth has been finally obtained. The way to get a getting labor from elsewhere at more reasonable rates, or the development on a more limited extent of the great mineral resources of the district. Capital can easily do without labor, but labor cannot exist without capital. On the Freeman group of claims, situated three miles on the south of Tracy creek and about five miles from Wassau, in Fort Steele mining division, there is to be \$800 of development work expected. The claims are gold, silver and copper. Assays have been got of \$19.80 per ton in gold and 15 per cent in copper. There has been no assay for silver. The principal ledge is apparently about eight feet thick, and contains a high percentage of the appearance of a true fissure vein, as it cuts the formation right in two. It can be traced through the whole claim. The work is to be commenced immediately, and is so consist in the first place of an open cut, to ascertain the width of the vein, after which it shall be cross-cut to test its character. Then a shaft will be sunk of sufficient depth to find out the value of the property. Messrs. Mitchell and Brothers have just come down from Windermere, where they have been busy making preparations to commence development work on some very promising claims they possess in that mining division. In Tracy creek they have three claims, the Dragon, St. George and the Vulcan. The St. George and the Vulcan, which are adjoining claims, are on the opposite side of the creek, about two and a half miles from the Columbia river. The Dragon is twelve miles higher up the creek. The character of the ore of this claim is copper and silver, with gold. An assay of 26 per cent of copper has been obtained, and with the silver gives a yield of over \$100 per ton. The development work will consist of driving a tunnel six feet by four feet upon the main ledge, which is already in thirty-eight feet. The St. George and the Vulcan contain similar ore claims. The Mitchell-Innes Brothers have also a very fine claim on Horse Thief creek, in the same mining division. It is called the Pretty Girl. It is a copper proposition, carrying silver. The ore is as high as 35 per cent. From an assay made of the ore from this claim the very satisfactory result of \$80 per ton was obtained. The necessary assessment work is now being done on this claim. There have been some fine locations made on this creek. It, and Toby creek, a neighboring stream, possess some of the best mineral wealth we have ever seen from the Windermere mining division. The Miner wishes the Mitchell-Innes Brothers great success. They evidently know and the Miner knows they have got hold of a good thing in these properties.—East Kootenay Miner.

THE WEEK IN KASLO.

Kaslo, Aug. 14.—The Liberty Hill Mining Company and the Trout Mining Company have together let contracts for 2,000 feet of tunnel work in their properties on the South Fork of Kaslo Creek. An air compressor plant, sufficient to go to contract work and work the mines, is to be placed upon the ground this fall. The preliminary work is to be commenced before August 15th. A prominent Sloan mine owner made the statement in Kaslo this week that he could operate his mine with but one man, and that he could do so without cutting wages either. He continued to express the opinion that if the truth were told, nearly every mine in the Sloan district could be operated on the same terms. Whether this estimate of cost or not remains to be seen, so much as depending on the richness of the ore and the shipping facilities. But it hardly seems likely that a man of experience would undertake such a proposition without having good ground for it. If this should be the state of affairs, the best thing that could happen would be a fall in the price of silver, for that would mean that the world's supply of silver would be increased chiefly from this district. A report gained currency last week that the Sloan Star mine was to be shut down, but the managers of the property indignantly deny this, and are increasing their staff materially, a fact which leads to the conviction that instead of looking for a further fall in the price of silver, they are expecting a rise. A resident of Kaslo received a cablegram this week from the English company which he represents here, to hold himself in readiness to leave for the Clondyke in the spring with a party of 300 prospectors to stake claims for the company.

AN INTERESTING SUIT.

At New Westminster on Friday the case of Francoeur and McDonald vs. M. M. English came up in the county court before his honor Judge Boie and a special jury. The case was heard in the afternoon. This case has been before the public before, the facts of which are no doubt well remembered. Outside of those who were personally interested in the case, very few of the public were in the court, although the case was one that is of great interest to mining men. The case involves the rights of stakers of mining claims respectively named and registered "Atlas, Duke" and "O. K." covering the Sloan Star mine. Mr. D. G. Macdonell, of Vancouver, who appeared for the plaintiffs, opened the case with an address of some length.

THE LE ROI SMELTER.

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