

will favour a continuation of operations on a larger and more embrasive scale than before nobody who is acquainted with the mine and its past achievements doubts for a moment. At the same time I wish to say a word on behalf of Mr. Paterson, the late manager, who is now in the old country, and unable to reply personally to criticisms. The almost insurmountable obstacles with which he had to contend are not, I am confident, half understood by his detractors, and if his judgment was at fault, as admittedly it was in one or two particulars, let us not forget that he was at any rate an engineer trained far beyond the average of British Columbia managers, and above all a man thoroughly honest in his convictions. I can state from personal knowledge that he has left the province one of the most efficient tramways and concentrators that it possesses, and I consider it no reflection on him to say that we all hope and believe that his original opinion of the Wakefield formed when he first contemplated the erection of so extensive a plant, will prove in the end to be the correct one, though to do him justice, we must not overlook the fact that economic conditions were materially altered during the time operations were in progress, which would suffice to account largely for his change of views.

Let me say, in conclusion, that I am not posing as a vindicator of everything that Mr. Paterson said or did while he was in the province, but as one who knew him personally and had a great deal to do professionally with the Wakefield at one time and another, I deem it my duty to do what I can to correct the impression which seems to prevail that he was hopelessly incapable and quite unworthy of the trust reposed in him.

BURTON CITY, ARROW LAKES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The mining outlook in this district has vastly improved of late. Mr. Clark, of the Chieftain, is being congratulated on the strike of very high grade silver ore made on his property, where ore showing of pure nature and leaf silver associated with copper pyrites averaging 5 or 6 per cent. in association with galena and gold bearing pyrites, being taken from the mine and being sacked ready for shipment.

The values in this ore will average \$150 or \$175 per ton.

A rawhide trail is being built to this property, as is also one to the Hailstorm group, owned by Messrs. Jamieson and Matthews, of Vancouver, where four feet of high grade galena ore has been found this last month. Mr. Jamieson will also rawhide the ore out this winter if the trail is finished in time.

The Molly property, it is to be regretted, is not working. It is to be hoped the discovery of the Chieftain will induce other property owners to develop their claims.

Mr. E. C. Black's property, the Galena Star, which assays high in gold, is looking very well.

While other claim owners are pegging away, stimulated by the strike on the Chieftain, henceforth much development work will be done in this locality.

REVELSTOKE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Revelstoke's old standby—the Big Bend—will be very quiet this winter, as but few of the properties there intend to work through the coming season; their assessments are done, and it is useless to ex-

tract ore when it is impracticable to ship it. A new survey for a permanent waggon road into that quarter from Revelstoke is in progress, and probably work will be started on the road and kept going as long as possible,

NEW WAGON ROAD TO BIG BEND.

some \$10,000 having been voted by Government for that purpose. If that sum is properly expended and not frittered away, as is usually the case with Government money, the road should be well made to 10-Mile Camp. The usual rule should hold good here: First a trail, then a waggon road, then a railroad; but all honour to the men who start when there is even no trail, and hunt the country for its mineral wealth! Although Revelstoke will retain its accustomed sleepy attitude this winter, there will be plenty of work going on in the Fish Creek and the Lardeau districts, especially the latter, as but few properties in the vicinity of Fish Creek can ship any quantity of ore yet. The development done during the last few months has proved still further the extent and value of the numerous claims, but in a district so very badly provided with means of access, much good stuff must of necessity remain where it is found. The Lardeau and Trout Lake divisions are better supplied with roads, though very far from

LARDEAU AND TROUT LAKE.

what is needed for the convenience of shippers; still it is certain that such mines as the Silver Cup and the Nettie L. will do their utmost to ship considerable quantities of ore during the coming season. One small property lately has become noted, namely, the Triune, which, while hardly known to exist some three months ago, has actually shipped some 20 tons to the smelter, which yielded about \$300 to the ton. No wonder the owners are elated over their prospect, as to get any claim to pay so well from grass-roots is not usual, even in that rich district. No new gold strikes have been reported lately, but those already known are holding out well, and there is every reason to expect that further search will reveal more. Silver-lead is the principal mineral in the district, and while there is a very great deal of extremely high-grade ore, yet that is small compared to the enormous bodies of lower grade, such as the Great Northern, Broadview and others close by which will hardly pay to ship at the present awful prices of transportation and treatment. The promised railway is as far off as ever, leading one to suppose that the Great Northern and the C. P. R. had buried the hatchet and mutually agreed to suspend all operations on the railroads that both parties commenced a year or two ago.

It is to be hoped that we shall not be favoured with any more violent changes in the mining laws, such as that unnecessary and unasked for eight-hour act. Some small modifications from time to time are reasonable enough, but they should tend to help the prospector and struggling claim owner rather than discourage him. There are almost too many details, and generally too much "red tape" about the undisputed possession of mining property; and the failure to observe some small act or another should not subject the owner to the risk of losing his holding altogether. This simply encourages that pest of every mining district, the claim jumper. So long as work is honestly done on a claim, and done continuously and abundantly, the owners should not be in any doubt as to whether or not by neglecting some small technicality "made and provided" they have forfeited their rights to it, and it might be well if legislation were improved in that direction.