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WILL EXAMINE AND REPORT ON MINES

MINING NOTES.

Frank Watson brought down some rich looking samples from the Arlington, showing native silver as well as galena.

A company is being formed to develop the Gladstone, which lies near the Commander.

The War Eagle company has struck a great body of ore in the tunnel run in from the Iron Mask ground. It is supposed to be the same ore body as that on the Center Star which has now been located on the War Eagle ground.

The tunnel on the Monte Cristo is in ore, and the grade is improving.

There is a very fine showing of ore on the Gopher.

It is reported that Messrs. Gooderham & Blackstock are in London on a deal for the property owned by the War Eagle Consolidated. It was said when they left Toronto they had gone out to sell the Gooderham Worts' distillery.

Martin King, who has just given up the management of the Columbia & Kootenay, has in a quiet way done as much for the development of the Trail Creek camp as any man who ever came into it.

Some very fine ore has been struck in the Commander lately.

Great activity is being looked for in the Boundary country this summer. Already men are going in in shoals, which is neither the best thing for themselves nor for the country, because the snow is too deep for any prospecting to be done for a long time to come.

The Juliet mine is about to put in machinery. The mine is looking first-rate.

A drift will be started immediately from the foot of the Monita shaft. The shaft is not at present in ore.

J. F. Wardner has founded a town in East Kootenay called Wardner.

A tunnel has been started on the Wolverine, belonging to the Southern Cross group.

The Le Roi has had to lay off a large part of its force as more ore was being taken out than the railway could handle in its present snow-blocked condition. About 100 men were laid off.

Orphan Boy stock is a dead dog on the market, and will be until the very peculiar arrangements of the company are adjusted.

Mr. Bellinger, of the Trail smelter, writes to the press to say that he is not, and never was, a director of the Orphan Boy company.

The last report from the Victory came in yesterday. Ten inches of high-grade ore on the hanging wall and a full face of mixed ore and quartz.

The Stanley mine is affording food for gossip. The vein matter is said to be bastard quartz—a very unsympathetic gold-bearing material.

J. M. Burke returned to Rossland last night. J. M. has now the backing of one of the strongest syndicates floated in eastern Canada, and the syndicate has the backing of J. M. Burke and some of the best undeveloped and partially developed property in the country.

P. A. O'Farrell and W. Piggott are among the early birds returned to Rossland.

W. Dunn has been wintering outside. He is back in Rossland and has acquired an interest in the East St. Louis, a good-looking prospect lying between the Lily May and Silver Bell.

About twenty men are camped at Barney O'Brien's ranch doing assessment work on surrounding claims.

Two remarkable specimens of ore are on exhibit in the Miner office window. One is taken from the west drift on the 500-foot level of the Le Roi. It assays \$155 in gold. The other is taken from the 300-foot

level of the Center Star and assays \$100 gold and 20 per cent copper. The remarkable thing about these specimens is not so much their high grade as the striking difference in texture and appearance they present. Both the pyrrhotite and copper pyrites are of entirely different color and grain. But both are fit for a jewelry window and throw in the shade a fine specimen of the Victory ore which lies in the window beside them.

W. A. Campbell has acquired the Lusanna and Morning No. 7, two claims on Lemon creek, which possess a good showing of galena which carries values in gold.

Ore and matte produced in southwest Kootenay and entered at the port of Nelson, last week, reached a total value of \$185,000. This brings the total from January 1 to March 13 to \$1,800,000, not including shipments over Nakusp & Slocan Railway from February 1, those being entered at Revelstoke.

The Rammer & Cariboo Company of Slocan will pay a dividend of \$20,000 next week.

The government will be asked to assist in building a road from the foot of Slocan lake to the Arlington basin.

The demand for developed properties far exceeds the supply in Trail Creek. From all sides come letters from agents prepared to pay any price for mines. So much the better for the men who have taken the chances and made the mines.

SALE OF COLUMBIA AND KOOTENAY GROUP.

The Columbia and Kootenay group has been purchased by the British Columbia Smelting and Refining Company, controlled by F. A. Heinze, for \$500,000 cash. This is one of the most remarkable mining deals ever made. In the first place, until the mine was turned over nobody knew anything about the sale. In the second place, the mine, with less than one year's active development, has appreciated in value about 1,000 per cent. In the third place, it has not been sold at this enormous advance to eastern tenderfeet, or on an expert's report, to the credulous public, but to one of the hardest-headed combinations of mining men in Western America.

The mine has been a steady but small producer since the beginning of the year, shipping from fifty to sixty tons a week to the Trail smelter. It is needless to say that it is looking well. It is in fact looking better now than when the deal was to all intents and purposes closed, over a week ago. There was one element apparently existent in the Trail Creek camp which was exciting some distrust. The mining men who made the camp seemed to show a tendency to realize and invest elsewhere. The evidences of this supposed fact were very slim. There was the sale of the War Eagle, the option on the Jumbo, the rumored sale of the Le Roi, coupled with the fact that the owners of these mines were not taking hold of any more property in the Trail Creek camp. The public overlooked the fact that those mines were not being sacrificed, but sold at figures which represented an enormous profit; and this other fact, that the men who were selling are mining pioneers, not mining investors; that their business is opening up new districts, not investing in already proved properties. There is no mining camp where such men do not give place to the investor, and Trail Creek was merely exemplifying a natural law. There are people who say that this is the way to make money in mining. It has not proved so in the past. Every great fortune made in mining has been made by men who did not sell but allowed themselves to be transferred by a natural process from mining man into mining investor. That is simply a matter of fact, amply demonstrated by experience. But, by way of restoring the nerve of the timid, this sale of a mine for an immense figure from an eastern company to a western company is a remarkably satisfying feature.

All trains are blocked on local lines, and Rossland's mail service, which in the last few months has been greatly improved, is in a demoralized condition.