OVER ONE QUARTER MILLION PROFITS

Centre Star Company Earned $267,000 in Year Just Closed.

SPLENDID RECORD ACHIEVED

Has $70,000 Cash in Bank---Remarkably Low Costs of Work---The New Mill Now Under Way Near Rossland.

With its debt wiped out and $70,000 in cash at the bank, the Centre Star Mining company finishes the year ending September 30 in a position that is a gratifying commentary on the possibilities of mining in the Rosland camp. Now the company is branching out in milling, and the prospects are that the year now opening will be the brightest in its history as the outcome of enhanced activity and increased profits to accrue through concentration.

The annual meeting of the company took place in Toronto yesterday, and the reception of the reports created much interest. A feature of note locally is the statement of costs for the year, in which it is shown that the entire costs of breaking ore and delivering the product on cars, with the pro rata cost on general account charged to each ton, was a few cents over $2. This is somewhat of a triumph in the direction of the reductions in mining costs that are admittedly essential to where its profit is consumed by the cost of the dead work. The relief to be derived from milling will therefore be not only in the direct saving of cost expected, but also in the increased proportion of pay ore to development work, while the stoping of low grade blocks will assist the exploration work in disclosing the unknowkn bodies of smelting ore contained within their limits.

HANDSOME PROFITS.

The ore sales during the year have been 88,387 tons, averaging $10.58, smelter's gross asay value. The average assay contents were: gold, 0.50 oz.; silver, 0.40 oz.; copper, 0.99 per cent. The net profit in excess of all expenditures was in round figures $265,000, which has covered the indebtedness of the company and left a surplus of, in round figures, $70,000 in the treasury.

The reserves of smelting ore at the present moment are not large, and are

Product of the Centre Star Mine.

Statement Showing Values and Smelter Charges per Annum to Sept. 30, 1903.

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING	NET TONNAGE	Real or full Assay value. Total Metallic Cont'nts at full N. Y. quotations.	Indirect Smelting charge. Difference between N. Y. quotations and smelter price for the metals.	Direct Smelting charge, including freight from the mine.	Total Smelting charge, direct & indirect.	Smelter's Gross Assay Value, deducting indirect charges only.	Smelter's Net Value, after deducting both indirect and direct charges from the real assay value.
Production prior to Oct. 1, 1898 (approximate) 1898	2,550.00						$ 29,600.00
September 30th, 1899..........	6,596.56	$ 150,629.33	$ 25,915.84	$ 39,579.08	$ 65,494.92	$ 124,713.49	$ 85,134.41
September 30th, 1900..........	24.524.89	493,894.13	87,655.60	147,130.34	234,785.94	406,238.53	259,108.19
September 30th, 1901..........	80,419.24	1,457,479.57	280,320.20	482,515.66	762,835.86	1,177,159.37	694,643.71
September 30th, 1902..........	11,087.65	180,104.99	32,498.13	57,,853.89	90,352.02	147,606.86	89,752.97
September 30th, 1903..........	88,387.07	1,153,930.66	218,521.56	404,633.37	623,154.93	935,409.10	530,775.73
	211,015.41	$3,436,038.68	$644,911.33	$1,131,712.34	$1,776,623.67	$2,791,127.35	$1,659,415.01

successful mining in Rossland.

The appended report by Edmund B. Kirby, manager, together with the tabulated statements, will be perused carefully in Rossland and whereever mining costs and conditions are of interest. Incidentally it is worthy of note that the Centre Star and War Eagle companies are the only local mining companies—or in the Kootenay-Boundary country—that consent to the publication in detail of such information as is here annexed. The information, however, is of very great general interest and importance.

As was expected, the manager's report deals at length with the question of milling. The report is as follows:

Explanatory Note: The values given are based upon the price of 12 cents for copper instead of 16.25 cents, as in previous reports.

It is the usual practice of mines in pricing and recording ore to use the "full assay value" instead of the "smelter's gross assay value" which is less. While this plan is often preferable it has so far been more convenient at the Centre Star mine to use the latter value, which as shown by the table opposite, has on shipping grades ranged from $2.47 to $3.93 less than the full assay value.

Developments up to date show that the Centre Star mine has experienced the same general change in the character of its ore deposits which has occurred in all other productive mines of the Rossland district, and which is the general rule throughout the mining districts of the world. This is the transition from the occurrence of high grade bonanza ore bodies, capable of profit under the expensive process of smelting, to masses of lower grade, requiring a cheaper treatment by milling.

As the bodies of smelting ore in the vein became less frequent and their average size diminished the proportion of this ore to the increasing quantity of development or dead work required to expose it rapidly lessens to a point of such shape that their dimensions cannot be accurately estimated.

The development work of the year has continued to add to the great masses of ore too low in grade for smelting but rich enough to afford a profit to successful milling. Now that the mill of the Rossland Power company assures an outlet for these ores within a few months, their contents will soon be available. It is impossible to present any reliable estimate of their quantity or precise value, because their limits have not been defined, and until milling begins they cannot be exposed and sampled accurately without excessive expense. They occur in extensive bodies 15 to 30 feet in width, and exposed very imperfectly by the mine workings, since these have in the past been directed to the exposure of smelting ore bodies only.

DETAILS OF DEVELOPMENT.

Fourth level—(431 feet in depth measured on the vein.)

The fourth level east has been extended to a point 690 feet from the shaft. From the 340 to the 400 foot point, no values. At the 400 foot point a crosscut shows the ore to be 10 feet in width, averaging $3.45 smelter's gross assay value. From the 400 to the 470 foot point the ore averaged $4.40, smelter's gross assay value. From the 470 to the 500 foot point the ore averaged $14.70 smelter's gross assay value. From the 500 to the 680 foot point the average is $6.20 smelter's gross assay value. At the 500 foot point the ore is 35 feet wide, averaging $5.00 smelter's gross asay value.

Fifth level—(608 feet in depth measured on the vein.)

In the fifth level west at a point 65 feet west of the shaft crosscut winze No. 583 has been sunk 65 feet on the vein, in ore.

Eighth level—(1077 feet in depth measured on the vein.)

The main level west has reached a point 285 feet from the shaft crosscut. The vein is heavily mineralized but of no value except from the 27 to the 64 foot point, where it averaged $14.80 smelter's gross assay value.

The main level east has reached a point 425 feet from the shaft crosscut. The vein is heavily mineralized, but of no value.

Ninth Level—(1222 feet in depth measured on the vein.)

At the point of intersection by the shaft crosscut the vein is heavily mineralized and 47 feet in width, but of low grade.

The ninth level west on the hanging side of the vein has reached a point 109 feet from the shaft crosscut, no values. A heading on the footwall side advanced 17 1-2 feet through heavily mineralized ore, averaging $3.95 smelter's gross assay value.

Ninth level east on hanging side of the vein advanced 114 feet, exposing heavy sulphides of no value. On the footwall side a heading has been driven 20 feet through ore averaging $3.65 smelter's gross assay value.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The necessity for milling has long been foreseen, but although every effort has been made towards the desired end, there has been unexpected delay, owing to unusual difficulties and obstacles. The technical problem presented by the nature of the ore has been a serious one, and the business arrangements necessary for success have also taken time. A satisfactory method of treatment was devised some time ago, while the questions of location, water supply, land, freight rates, market for product, and the financing of the milling enterprise were finally settled last August.

A TAX THAT PINCHES.

The serious obstacle presented to large scale milling by the so-called 2 per cent tax imposed by the British Columbia government upon the gross product of mines has not yet been removed. This tax has the peculiar effect of exacting an increasing proportion of the net profits as the grade of ore lowers. For instance, on the milling grades of the Centre Star and other Rossland mines it will take anywhere from 10 to 20 per cent of the net profits, which greatly increases the difficulty of securing capital for milling operations. The disastrous effect of this tax in repressing the mining and milling of low grade ores throughout the province has forced the mining communities to join in active measures for its repeal, and the matter is being steadily pressed by the Provincial Mining Association. It is believed that the new legislature will not longer delay the relief so urgently demanded by popular sentiment.

THE MILLING WORKS.

A preliminary mill of 200 tons daily capacity, but designed for prompt enlargement to 400 tons, is now being built by The Rossland Power Company, Limited, and is located upon the line of the Canadian Pacific railway near the town of Trail. It is expected to begin operations by early spring, affording the desired outlet for the milling ores of the Centre Star and War Eagle mines.

It is proper to call special attention to the reduction effected during the past year in the costs of mining, which have lowered all previous records. The figures are as follows:

Winzes... ....$38.77 per foot
Raises... ... . 29.97 per foot
Drifts... .. ..., ... 17.09 per foot
Mining ore from stopes, 2.07 per ton

The entire cost of mining and delivering ore, including pro rata of general expenses, was $2.07 per ton of ore from the stopes, and during several months ranged between $1.93 and $1.96.

EXCEEDINGLY LOW COSTS.

Including the additional ore broken by development headings, the average for the year was $1.97 (see table of costs). These figures would be satisfactory in most mining districts of the west, but in view of the exereme toughness of this ore and rock, the moderate rate of output and the severe conditions of mining here, they are very exceptional.

We have been fortunate in retaining an able staff, the chiefs of departments being Mr. Carl R. Davis, E. M., superintendent, and Mr. Charles V. Jenkins, in charge of the purchasing and accounting. The credit for these results is due to the efficiency of the force, the unusual skill and energy of this staff, and particularly to your superintendent, Mr. Davis, for his management of the mining operations.

Respectfully,
(Signed) EDMUND B. KIRBY,
Manager.

TABLE OF MINE COSTS.

Twelve Months Ending September 30th, 1903.

	DEVELOPMENT WORK. Sinking Small Shafts	Raising	Drifting	ORE EXTRACTION
Total Advance, feet......................	79.	186.	2903.5	
Ore Stoped, tons				84,453
	COST PER FOOT.			Cost per Ton.
1. Drilling	6.10	7.31	4.53	.405
2 Blasting	2.48	2.40	1.08	.03
3. Explosives	3.13	3.72	2.72	.145
4 General Mine Supplies......	.51	.64	.43	.04
5. Mine Lighting—Candles	.26	.19	.14	.015
6. Mine Lighting—Electric	.30	.22	.13	.01
7. Smithing	1.00	1.14	.72	.065
8. Tramming and Shoveling, direct...	5.51	.65	1.21	.24
9 Tramming and Shoveling, appor'nd	.64	.35	.42	.085
10. Timbering—Labor	1.81	3.08	.02	.19
11 Timbering—Material	.33	.57	.01	.11
12 Machine Drill Fittings and Repairs	.86	.94	.60	.055
13. General Mine Labor	1.57	1.18	.84	.09
14. Hoisting—Underground	4.79	....	....	....
15 Hoisting—Main Shaft	1.48	.89	.94	.19
16 Compressed Air	1.74	2.08	1.07	.12
17. Mine Ventilation	.23	.17	.13	.015
18. Pumping	1.71	1.09	.34	.035
19. Assaying	.55	.47	.14	.03
20. Surveying	.20	.17	.11	.01
21. General Expense	3.57	2.71	1.51	.185
	38.77	29.77	17.09	2.065

THE METAL MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Nov. 24.—Bar silver, 57¾.

LONDON, Nov. 24.—Lead £11.

FREE FOOD LEAGUE

A BIG MEETING IN LONDON ADDRESSED BY DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE.

STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE CHAMBERLAIN PROGRAM EXPRESSED.

LONDON, Nov. 24.—The Duke of Devonshire presided and was the principal speaker at a great demonstration in Queens hall here tonight, under the auspices of the Free Food League.

It was the duke's first public speech since his resignation as lord president of the council, and the first really important meeting of the Free Fooders as an offset to the propaganda of the Tariff Reform league. The hall was packed and the prominent persons were given a tremendous reception.

The Duke of Devonshire was given a great welcome. He said there must be difference of opinion concerning the extent to which retaliation might legitimately go. Some members of the league were not altogether opposed to some form of protection; but they were all united and prepared to resist to the utmost the proposition of any protective taxation on food or protective duties generally. He himself claimed the right to oppose anything in the nature of a return to protection.

Prolonged cheers followed this statement of the duke.

Continuing, the speaker said that while the fiscal policy was not yet a party question, there was nothing which the advocates of the scheme, which emanated from the brain of a single eminent statesman, would like better than a general election which would turn on this question alone.

The duke said the meeting was one of Unionists, desiring to urge on the government the danger of taking a certain course and the expediency of resisting a certain course. It was not the policy of the Unionist government which was before the country. The public liked a clear issue, and such an issue had been brought before them by Mr. Chamberlain, who left the government in order that he might be free.

Cheers and hisses followed this mention of Mr. Chamberlain.

The duke urged that the policy of the government must be more clearly defined. At present it was indefinite. He had tendered his resignation because he could not be the representative of the government in the house of lords and express unqualified confidence in the policy of the cabinet, concerning which he had grave misgivings and insuffi̇cent knowledge. If he had been assured that a moderate use of the proposed power of retaliation would be made by the premier he might still be a member of the government. With certain limitations much might be said of the policy of retaliation, but it would only make matters worse if in addition to the existing hostile tariffs against themselves they built up walls which would prohibit and restrict the importation of goods which for their own advantage they took from other nations. The duke said he was opposed to the taxation of food because he thought that such taxation was the keynote of the entire policy to which he took exception. Should the price of food be raised, some compensation must be given to the workingmen. He recognized the great services of Joseph Chamberlain. He was prepared to prove that Mr. Chamberlain's Glasgow budget would entail a tremendous loss to the consumer, while the workingmen's expenses would be increased ten per cent. He believed that no greater fallacy had ever been produced than that the restriction of imports from abroad would increase the profitable employment of capital and labor at home. The country was prospering everywhere, yet Mr. Chamberlain asserted that only stagnation existed. Alluding to Mr. Chamberlain's charge that he (the Duke of Devonshire) was "a drag on the wheels of progress," the speaker said he was content to act as a drag on the engine which was running down grade against all signals.

Lord Goschen moved and Lord Geo. Hamilton seconded the following resolution, which was passed by an overwhelming vote: "This meeting, while prepared to consider in a friendly spirit any measures the government may submit to parliament in special session for mitigating the effects of hostile tariffs, is of the opinion that strenuous opposition should be offered to any fiscal policy involving the protective taxation of food and the establishment of a general preferential or protective system."

CENTRE STAR MINE

COMPARATIE STATEMENT OF WORK DONE AND ITS COST, GENERAL EXPENSES INCLUDED, PER FOOT OR TON, TO SEPTEMBER 30th, 1903.

	October 1, 1899, to September 30, 1900.			October 1, 1900, to September 30, 1901.			October 1, 1901, to September 30, 1902.			October 1, 1902, to September 30, 1903.		
	Work done, Feet or tons	TOTAL COST.	Cost per Foot or ton	Work done, Feet or tons	TOTAL COST.	Cost per Foot or ton	Work done, Feet or tons	TOTAL COST.	Cost per Foot or ton	Work done, Feet or tons	TOTAL COST.	Cost per Foot or ton
DEVELOPMENT WORK—												
General work, stations, re-timbeing, machinery and equipment, repairs, maintenance, etc...		$ 15,216.59			$ 15,663.36			$ 13,517.06			$ 3,057.62	
Sinking main shaft...	228.5	28,250.81	123.63	337.	33,415.68	99.16	362.	34,445.82	95.15			
Sinking small shafts or winzes........	103.5	6,107.39	59.01	50.5	2,268.93	44.93	50.5	2,283.67	45.22	79.	3,062.47	38.77
Raising...	903.5	50,606.61	56.01	324.5	10,099.31	31.12	153.	5,081.80	33.21	186.	5,577.48	29.97
Drifting...	2421.	64,942.85	26.82	2107.	42,927.22	20.37	3997.5	87,664.29	21.93	2903.5	49,621.49	17.09
Total development work..........	3656.5	165,124.25		2819.	104,374.50		4563.	142,992.64		3168.5	61,319.06	
ORE PRODUCTION—												
Ore from development work, sold tons...	4034.94			4522.			1018.			3934.		
Ore from dumps, storage, etc., sold tons...				7774.	2,291.80	0.29						
Stoped ore sold...	20489.95	73,592.27	3.59	68123.	151,682.93	2.23	10069.	29,559.82	2.93	84453.	174,425.78	2.07
Total ore sold...	20489.95	73,591.27	3.59	80419.	153,974.73	1.91	11087.	29,559.82	2.67	88387.	174,425.78	1.97
SUMMARY—												
Expense of development, per tonof ore sold...	24524.89	165,124.25	6.73	80419.	104,374.50	1.30	11087.	142,992.64	12.89	88387.	61,319.06	.70
Expense of production, per ton of ore sold...	24524.89	73,591.27	3.00	80419.	153,974.73	1.91	11087.	29,559.82	2.67	88387.	174,425.78	1.97
Total expenditure, per ton of ore sold...	24524.89	$238,715.52	$9.73	80419.	$258,349.23	$3.21	11087.	$172,552.46	$15.56	88387.	$235,744.84	$2.67