

the road, taking some four hours to cover. After lunch away we climbed to the Alberni and other mines, visiting on the way the Duke of York hydraulic claim. Here, indeed it looks like business, with the monitors working and making the dirt fly and no mistake. The Duke will make fortunes for its enterprising owners.

"From there we went to the Constance claim, of some 300 acres, where good work has been done to prove the richness of the claim, and if the negotiations now pending end satisfactorily, this claim will prove itself, as old placer miners call it, one of the richest anywhere. Next to the Constance is the Cataract, which will also be heard from, as, I was told, Mr. Bainbridge's trip to 'Friseo had resulted in securing ample capital to energetically work the same.

"The sight of the Alberni mine well repaid the trouble of the climb. The seventy foot shaft and the 100 foot tunnel discloses a vein some fourteen inches wide that actually does assay up to \$5,000 to the ton. This rich pay streak is bounded on both sides by about ten feet of the prettiest looking quartzite which assays about \$12 a ton. The diamond drill is on the spot and was to have been in active operation that same afternoon.

"Returning, we visited, amongst others, the Mountain Rose, where there is as good a showing as a man could wish to have, free gold being visible to a large extent. Here we had supper with the former owner and genial miner, Mr. William Campbell, borrowing a candle before we left, not to go to bed with, but to light us down the trail, it now being nearly pitch dark. The evening was spent in tents around about, and then to bed on the soft boards of the dining room of Debeau's cabin, wrapped in a blanket but not in the arms of Morpheus, for sleep there was none. Glad when daylight came we were up betimes and climbed the steepest trail of all, visiting those splendid claims, the Maid of the Hills, Two to One and Regina group, on which, much to the credit of Messrs. Hovelague, McKinnon and Moie, and I hope and believe for their benefit, much good work has been done to the value of thousands of dollars in sinking shafts and running tunnels on the numerous rich ledges these claims contain. Here we dined on the usual good miners' fare of pork and beans. After farewells we start for home and are back at Alberni at dusk.

"I could say much about what I have seen and the amount of information I gained from one and another, for I did not spend an idle minute, but it would fill pages. I would say, however, squarely and honestly, that every place I visited I found fully equal or better than represented to me previously. There is an amount of work done there that is most creditable and to prove their faith in the district the miners are putting in good works on their own claims, and at most I visited are building themselves good, substantial log cabins, as they intend to work the winter through. This to me does, and to those who read this, should speak volumes. Alberni and district is all right. No other camp, I think, could make a better showing in so short a time—certainly not a richer."

Coal Loading Machine.

MESSRS. DUNSMUIR & SONS have erected a coal loading machine at their Wellington

wharves. The new machine is described as follows:

The superstructure of the machine is of a very permanent nature, and most compactly built. A new wharf has also been constructed in a most substantial manner. The machine is very simple, the only wonder being that it had never been built before. This machine consists of an endless steel apron, three feet six inches in width, which runs from under the hopper, where the cars dump the coal, to a position directly over the hatchway of the vessel. This apron, being counter weighted at the sides, can be lowered or raised with ease. From the end of the apron extends a slide or chute, which can be fitted to the mouth of the telescope. This telescope deserves more than a passing notice. It consists of four large, heavy iron tubes, each about five feet long. These by a simple contrivance can all be contracted or extended at the will of the man in charge, who stands on a small bridge some twenty or twenty-five feet above the level of the deck of the steamer.

The *modus operandi* of loading is exceedingly simple. The coal falls from the hopper on to the apron below and is then carried forward toward the end of the apron, where it falls into the telescope. As this gets filled up the bottom section of the telescope is raised slightly, which allows the coal to gently fall to the bottom without any serious waste through breakage. As the saving of coal from breakage was the object for which the machine was invented, it is to the eye of the inexperienced writer, a wonderful improvement on the old system of letting it run down the chute and drop from level with the hatchway to the bottom of the ship. The power used to manipulate this machine consists of an upright twenty-five horse-power engine. The amount of power actually used rarely exceeds ten horse-power, and only requires one man to run it. The operation of the entire machinery is controlled by the movement of three levers, located on the bridge, from which point the operator has a clear view of all the parts.

The entire machinery has been erected by the Link Belt Machinery Company, of Chicago. The capacity of the machine is over 200 tons per hour, and it is expected that by its use the breakage at this place due to loading will be reduced by one-half. Further tests of the machine will be made in order to fully establish its practicability and its limitations.

Fort Steele Mining Division.

THIS section of the country has made very satisfactory progress in mining matters since the season opened, although we have not had the boom which was predicted by some people. Our mining interests are now on a sure footing, and there can be no doubt about the future of the district as soon as we have proper transportation facilities by way of the Crow's Nest Pass.

The following is a synopsis of the work done during the season, which speaks for itself, as to the mineral development of the district.

The North Star mine, which was closed down during the spring and early summer, was opened up again and work commenced about the 1st of July. Since that time quite a number of men have been kept in continual employment getting out ore and developing the property, 4,000 tons of ore hav-