

THE LE ROI.

The annual meeting of the Le Roi Mining Company was held at Spokane on January 13th. There was little business transacted. Colonel Peyton one of ten directors was appointed to act as manager in place of Senator Turner for the ensuing year, and Mr. L. F. Williams assumes the duties of secretary for the same term.

The Le Roi continues to make shipments of about 200 tons per day to the Northport smelter. Recent smelter returns show that the ore is going about 1.54 ounces in gold, four per cent. copper, and three ounces in silver. Its monetary value may be itemized as follows: Gold, 1.54 ounces at \$20, \$30.80; silver, three ounces at 57c., \$1.71; copper, four per cent. (80 pounds) at 10¾c., 8.60; total, \$41.11. Estimating the product of the mine at 200 tons per day, the gross value of the ore raised daily is \$8,222 or \$246,660 per month, which in turn makes the gross yearly product of the mine \$2,959,920. The Iron Mask has two cars loaded ready for the Northport smelter, and has ordered a lot of empties so that they may be loaded with ore for the smelter. From this it is presumed to be the intention of the Le Roi people to begin doing custom work just as soon as the smelter is blown in.

Shipping Mines.

Following are the ore shipments from the mines adjacent to Rossland, from Jan. 1 to Jan. 22, 1898:

| Mine. | Tons. |
|-------------------|-------|
| Le Roi | 3,828 |
| War Eagle | 220 |
| Centre Star | 75 |
| Poorman | 115 |
| Iron Mask | 140 |
| Cliff | 20 |
| Total | 4,298 |

The ore shipments for the seven days from Jan. 15 to Jan. 22, inclusive, were as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Le Roi | 1,170 |
| War Eagle | 60 |
| Centre Star | 30 |
| Poorman | 115 |
| Total | 1,278 |

The shipments for the same period last year, aggregated 210 tons.

The total shipments from the camp since Jan. 1, 1896, aggregate 77,138 tons.

The shipments of ore from Sandon from August 1, 1897 to January 20, 1898, inclusive, were as follows:

| | Tons. |
|----------------------|---------|
| Slocan Star | 2,630 |
| Ruth | 3,945 |
| Payne | 8,140½ |
| Idaho Mines | 426 |
| Noble Five | 519½ |
| Reco | 908½ |
| American Boy | 29 |
| Slocan Boy | 45 |
| Wonderful | 42 |
| Ajax | 43 |
| Majestic | 12 |
| Freddie Lee | 16 |
| Mt. Adams | 15 |
| Last Chance | 624 |
| Goodenough | 35 |
| Canadian Group | 20 |
| Sovereign | 34 |
| Trade Dollar | 15 |
| Queen Bess | 114 |
| Miscellaneous | 9½ |
| Total | 16,769½ |

ORE EXPORTED FROM JAN. 1 TO JAN. 22.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| From Slocan via Kaslo | 1,705 |
| " Slocan via Nakusp | 380 |
| " Rossland via Northport | 1,910 |
| Tons | 3,995 |
| Through Nelson Custom House | \$253,495.00 |
| Average Value per ton | \$63.58 |

THE STOCK MARKET.

The market for Rossland stocks has been very active during the month of January, caused by the purchase of the controlling interest in a number of the mines in that camp by the British American Corporation. The most active have been the Poorman, West Le Roi, Evening Star, Great Western and Josie, also Monte Cristo.

In silver properties there has been a demand for Dardanelles and Noble Five some good sized parcels of both these stocks having changed hands.

Regarding Coast mines, a number of Victoria-Texada shares have changed hands at a price which will ensure a good profit to the purchasers in the near future. Alberni-Consolidated has been bonded to an English Company for \$150,000, and this stock has advanced from five cents to nineteen cents.

MINERS' LICENSES.

TO THE EDITOR:—I have read with pleasure your articles on the subject of exempting working miners from the obligation of taking out licenses; but why not go a step farther and exempt pioneer prospectors and trail blazers? To these men we largely owe the development of this rich country and it is fitting that there should be some recognition of their services. At the same time I do not think either prospectors or working miners have much cause to complain at being overheavily taxed. The Government is spending large sums in roads and trails to open up our mining districts and it is of course necessary that a revenue should be provided.

Burton City, B.C.

J.G.R.

PUBLICATIONS.

"MINERAL Statistics and Mines: Annual report for 1896," by Elfriede Drew Ingall, M.E., Associate of the Royal School of Mines, England, Mining Engineer to the Geological Survey of Canada. This is a detailed statistical report of the mineral industry of Canada for 1896, published under the auspices of the Geological Survey. It is regrettable, but perhaps unavoidable, that the report for 1896 should make its appearance so late in the day as January, 1898. Nevertheless the publication is of great interest to us, particularly as showing the relative progress of mining in British Columbia with other provinces of the Dominion. Thus we find that no copper was mined in B.C. until 1894 when the production was not quite 1,100,000 pounds, in 1896 it had increased nearly twelve times in quantity and the output amounted to over forty per cent. of the whole production of Canada. Again the production of lead for 1896 was entirely from B.C., no lead being produced during that year either in Quebec or Ontario. Table II, page 119, shows the gold production by provinces for 1896 as follows:

| | Oz. | Value. |
|---|---------|-------------|
| Nova Scotia | 25,103 | \$ 518,780 |
| Quebec | 145 | 3,000 |
| Ontario | 5,563 | 115,000 |
| N.W. Territories (including Yukon district) | 17,175 | 355,000 |
| British Columbia | 86,512 | 1,788,206 |
| Total | 134,498 | \$2,780,000 |

Calculated from the values at the rate of \$20 67 per ounce. British Columbia's contribution was therefore, for the year quoted, sixty-four per cent. of the total production.

The figures detailing the production of silver in the Dominion, for a period of ten years from 1887 to 1896, are also well worth studying. In 1887 the yield of the whole of Canada was 349,330 ounces, valued at \$341,645, of which Ontario contributed 190,495 ounces; Quebec, 146,898 ounces and British Columbia, 11,937 ounces. In 1896 the position of the provinces is entirely reversed, of the total production of 3,205,343 ounces valued at \$2,149,503, British Columbia produced 3,135,343 ounces, or rather more than ninety-seven per cent. of the whole; Quebec, 70,000 ounces and Ontario nothing.

The author predicted a largely increased metal production for British Columbia for 1897, and from the figures we published last month it will be seen that he was not mistaken, the value of the total output of British Columbia mines last year being not much less than \$10,000,000, and the gold production of the province for 1897 it is safe to say would be equal at least to the production of the whole of Canada for the preceding year.