

dresses of mining engineers who make it a business to report and examine mines. Address two or more of them, and enclose a \$25 fee, asking frankly their opinion of the camp. Finally, if the general report on the whole is favourable, take the train and go right to the district and examine the proposition yourself. There is no mystery about the business of metal mining. Any man of average common sense can, if he will take the time, satisfy himself whether the property before him contains the elements of success or failure. There comes a time, it is true, when it is proper and necessary to purchase trained practical assistance and professional advice; but if a proposing investor will first personally look into the proposition offered in about the way suggested, he will be entirely capable of deciding whether the expert to whom he finally applies for technical aid is worthy of the trust reposed in him. There are rascals in all professions. There are many shysters and quacks among mining engineers as among lawyers and medical men. A glib tongue and an attractive presence will cover much mental vacuity, except to those who know. It is a fact, which may be easily demonstrated, that the bulk of failures in mining are due to the inertia of the investor, who is too lazy or too busy to think for himself."

The statement issued by the secretary of the Iron Colt Company at Rossland is not by any means encouraging. It appears that the Iron Colt has been explored since last December to the extent of 748 feet of drifts and cross-cuts in addition to what had been done before, without the discovery of any body of ore of a shipping grade. At the same time the work done on the Iron Colt was in the nature of an approach to the body of mineral presumably lying within the boundaries of the North Star. Upon this ore the management of the Iron Colt made many tests, and finally having bonded the claim, shipped the dump of fifty tons of mixed ore to Trail smelter, getting returns of from \$5.60 to \$9.60. The tunnel on the Iron Colt is expected to develop this North Star ore body at a depth of 400 feet. If the ore is found in place and of pay grade the combined properties can fairly be reckoned on as a mine of considerable productive capacity; if not the exploratory work has been carried on with the greatest possible economy and without any attempt to mislead the investing public. Special interest attaches to the development of this property because of the similarity to the vein of the Columbia Kootenay mine, which is being opened on an enormous scale without any definite information being given out as to whether large bodies of shipping ore have been developed or not.

The output from Rossland for the first eight months of the year amounts approximately to 120,000 tons. Production at present is about 6,000 tons a week, but the output of the Le Roi No. 2, which is now beginning and an early resumption of shipments now beginning an early resumption of shipments from the Centre Star and from other new producers will increase considerably the average weekly shipments from the camp for the remainder of the year. The result should therefore be a moderate increase on the output and aggregate values of 1899, which were 172,665 tons and \$3,229,086 respectively. The output for 1900 should reach 230,000 tons and although some of the ores now shipped from Rossland have been of lower grade than those of last year,

the aggregate values of ore production for the year should not be less than \$4,000,000 on a conservative estimate.

The prospects of the local smelting industry certainly never seemed so bright as they are to-day. The Trail smelter is being enlarged, the works at Grand Forks has made an excellent beginning of operations on a large scale; the Hall Mines smelter has re-opened with much custom work in hand; the Greenwood smelter rapidly approaches completion; a new smelter on the pyritic principle is to be built at Boundary Falls, and there is some prospect of the re-opening of the Pilot Bay smelter, though this last is doubtful. Meanwhile the small smelter at Van Anda has its operations to some extent impeded by lack of sufficient capital and other causes, but continues to treat a fair number of moderate sized shipments.

The July output of the San Eugene mine at Moyie is very satisfactory, being 2,396 tons of concentrates and clean ore, representing over 10,000 tons of ore mined and treated. If the mine during June made a net profit of \$70,000, as is currently reported, with an output of 1,900 during July, \$100,000 net must have been placed to the credit of the shareholders. The San Eugene is said to be the biggest silver-lead mine in North America with one exception. Whether that be so or not it is evidently a very great mine and one whose output will have a splendid effect on the mineral statistics for 1900.

The output from the Slocan country for July is given at 3,315 tons of ore and concentrates. If this rate is maintained, as it undoubtedly will be, if not materially increased when rawhiding commences in the winter, the country will go back to its old level of production in 1898, if it does not actually beat the record year of 1897. The silver-lead output of British Columbia with the Slocan maintaining its old position, and with the splendid accessions now being made from East Kootenay must show a very marked advance during the present year.

Although Lardeau's development is temporarily checked by lack of transport facilities and consequent excessive cost of ore shipment, several of its richest mines either are making or will make fair shipments. The owners take care of course to send out for treatment only the highest grade of ore from the mines, but this is quite excusable if not absolutely necessary, where transport and treatment charges together run to between \$40 and \$50 a ton. Notwithstanding this, the Triune mine, near Ferguson, has by making a shipment of nearly twenty tons of \$290 ore, become a payer from the grass roots and encouraged its owners' hopes of sending several other lots to Trail by the close of the year. The owners of two or three Lardeau mines have also ore sufficiently rich to stand the present heavy cost of shipment and treatment and are consequently likely in the course of the next few months to ship several hundred tons of ore from this locality. The Lardeau ores now being shipped are not only of high grade in silver and lead but also contain much gold, and judging by the beginnings now being made, it seems not unlikely that certain of the best Lardeau properties may rival in point of both production and value the substantial and profit-earning mines of the Slocan.