

# THE WEEK'S MINING

By H. M. L.

Several interesting mine reports have recently been made. Those of the Centre Star, at Rossland, and of the Eva mine, at Camberme, being especially worthy of mention. The latter, manager of the Centre Star has, by heavy long been noted for the comprehensive character of his annual reports, and the data and detailed information contained in the present production is more than usually valuable at this juncture when the problems connected with the operation of the Rossland mines at depth, and turning the hitherto practically worthless low-grade ore into commercial account, are so prominently before the public. 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 ore in the vein became less frequent and their average size diminished the proportion of this ore to the total tonnage of the dead work required to expose it rapidly lessens to a point where its profit is increased 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, but also in the increasing proportion of pay ore to development work, while the stoppage of low-grade blocks will assist the exploration work in disclosing the unknown bodies of ore contained within their limits.

The ore sales during the year have been 88,387 tons, averaging \$10.58 per ton, the gross value being \$934,000. The net profit in excess of all expenditures was \$70,000. The surplus approximately \$70,000. This has been used to pay off the indebtedness of the company and to pay a dividend of \$2.00 per share. The company has also been successful in securing a large order for the purchase of 100,000 tons of ore from the British Columbia government.

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 Centre Star mine is in a position to produce a daily capacity, but designed for prompt enlargement to 100 tons per day, the contents will soon be available. It is impossible to estimate any reliable estimate of their quantity, but the value of their limits have not been determined, and until milling begins they cannot be exposed and sampled accurately. The extensive bodies of 15 to 30 feet in width, and extending for several miles in the past been directed to the exposure of the ore.

It is proper to call special attention to the reduction effected during the past year in the cost of mining. The figures are as follows: Winsnes, \$38.77 per foot; raises, \$20.47 per foot; drifts, \$17.00 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 the cost of delivery ranged between \$1.03 and \$1.05. Including the additional ore broken by the development work, the average cost of this year was \$1.97. These figures would be satisfactory in most mining districts, but the cost of the ore is the extreme rate of output and the severe conditions of mining here, they are very exceptional.

The report on the Eva group, submitted to shareholders at the annual meeting held in Nelson last week, states that 746 feet of underground work was performed during the year, the average cost of tunnelling being \$1.38 per foot, and the cost of raising \$7.38 per foot. The company has installed an aerial tramway and a ten-stamp mill, and commenced operations on the 4th of October, the return from the initial run of 489 hours being 385.5 ounces of bullion valued at \$5,382.02 and 42 tons of concentrates valued at \$100, representing an average recovery of 87 per cent. of the assay values. On November 17 an important strike was made in No. 7 tunnel, 12 inches of free milling ore having been encountered in the face, assaying \$100 per ton.

Mr. Gardie, manager of the Payne mine at Sandon informs me that the new shaft plant recently completed at that property is working most successfully, the grade of the 42-43 per cent. zinc having been raised to 57-58 per cent., while a very desirable product of iron has been obtained. The plant has been charged, after it was completed, with the smelting of (siderite) iron associated with the zinc, and the results have been most satisfactory. The plant is now being run on a continuous basis, and the cost of handling is consequently reduced to a minimum. The plant has been in operation for three weeks. There are at the present time 1,500 tons of zinc ore awaiting treatment at the mill, and a considerable tonnage at the mine.

The Ymir mine, at the foot of the Cariboo, has been placed to place two dredges on the Horse river next year, and a company is being organized with that object in view. Kamloops—At the Iron Horse mine, 200 feet, the results from diamond drilling have indicated the existence of a very large ore body. The mine is also to be equipped with a large double driven hoist, a large double driven hoist, a 10-horse power engine, and a 300-horse power engine.

The Orster Criterion mill commenced crushing ore at the Northwest Development Syndicate is being reconstructed as the Gold Field Mining company with a capital of \$500,000.

An important strike is reported to have been made at the Ymir mine, the ledge having been encountered at a distance of approximately 1,200 feet from the mouth of the tunnel, and at a depth of 900 feet. The vein is said to be four and a half feet wide, carrying good values. On the 4th inst. a shaft of a new ore body has been opened up at a depth of 200 feet.

## Improving the Telephone Service

Most Modern System Being Established in the Bank of Montreal Building.

Local Telephone Exchange Will Shortly Be Removed to New Quarters.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The telephone system of the Victoria & Esquimalt Telephone Company, which will shortly move into their new headquarters in the Bank of Montreal building, is undergoing a thorough reorganization, and in a few weeks a much improved system will be in operation, which will make the service in the Northwest the most modern in the West.

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Conduits have been laid along the block paving of Bastion street, all in place, and the removal of the telephone system is being completed. The work will be about complete, and the subscriber will no longer have to wait for a long time to get a connection.

When the connections are completed it is expected that the work will be complete, and the subscriber will no longer have to wait for a long time to get a connection.

## PLOT TO RESTORE PANAMA EXPOSED

Alleged Ringleaders Are Arrested And Sent Out of the Country.

Colon, Dec. 5.—Through a letter, the Panama government has discovered what is alleged to have been a plot against the life of General Huerta, commander-in-chief of the Republic of Panama, and an effort on the part of a few army officers to persuade the government to allow them to take the reins of power. It is alleged that a plot was hatched by a group of army officers, who were dissatisfied with the government, and who were seeking to overthrow the government and install a military dictatorship.

The plot was discovered by the government, and the ringleaders were arrested and sent out of the country. The government has taken steps to ensure the security of the country, and has expressed its confidence in the military and civilian authorities.

## PUT SPARK IN POWDER OF SUCCESS.

From Los Angeles Times.

Sir Thomas Foxwell Buxton, one of the most indefatigable and energetic of workers, gave it as his opinion that the pre-eminent difference between men who succeed and those who fail is energy. "That quality," said he, "will do anything that can be done in this world, and no talents, no circumstances, no opportunities will make a two-legged creature a man without it."

On every hand we see people failing, their ability going to waste because of the lack of energy. It is the energy that is the spark that sets the powder of success on fire. It is the energy that is the spark that sets the powder of success on fire.

When Lord Elton was asked how a young man might make his way at the bar, he replied: "Let him live like a hermit, and work like a horse." There is no other way to success in any line. Careful living and intense, earnest, powerful work will clear a passage over the roughest road.

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## VANCOUVER AGENCY

The Branch Office of THE COLONIST for the Mainland has been Removed to

542 HASTING'S ST.

Where Subscriptions May be Paid and Orders for Printing and Advertising Left. Subscribers and Others are Cordially Invited to Call at the Above Address and Avail Themselves of the Facilities of the Office.

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being the son of Chief Stewart, of the Francisco Chronicle.

Last Saturday evening the Board of School Trustees met and transacted business. The agenda for the evening was as follows: John Piper, president; W. Story, vice-president; G. M. Richardson, secretary; W. Dean, treasurer; W. Wagstaff, assistant secretary; W. Rywell, chaplain; J. Collett, J. Wagstaff and W. H. Dean, messengers; F. Wagstaff, trustee. After the election the lodge resolved itself into social organization, a very enjoyable smoker taking place, at which Mr. H. Allison took the chair and the brethren provided an impromptu programme.

On Saturday afternoon the Indians of the Chinook nation in the battle of the local Association football championship, died after a very hot game. The Chinook team was defeated by the local Association football team.

On Saturday evening the Sons of St. George, Inverness Lodge, elected officers as follows: John Piper, past president; W. Story, vice-president; G. M. Richardson, secretary; W. Dean, treasurer; W. Wagstaff, assistant secretary; W. Rywell, chaplain; J. Collett, J. Wagstaff and W. H. Dean, messengers; F. Wagstaff, trustee. After the election the lodge resolved itself into social organization, a very enjoyable smoker taking place, at which Mr. H. Allison took the chair and the brethren provided an impromptu programme.

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