

During the last financial year of the Hall Mining and Smelting Company the two blast furnaces at the company's smelter at Nelson were operated a number of days equivalent to 85 per cent of their total capacity. This was nearly nine per cent better than during the year immediately preceding.

From the *Vernon News* it is learned that H. P. Lee, who is interested in the Cotton Belt mineral claim, situated near Sicamous, is well pleased with recent assays he has received from three different sources. These tests show an average value of about \$49 in silver and lead, with a trace of gold.

New plant, to be driven by electricity, has been installed at the Emma mine, in the Boundary district. This includes a 200-h. p. 2,200-volt Canadian Westinghouse induction motor, 8 by 10 hoist, and a compound belt-driven Canadian Rand air compressor with Corliss valve gear, capacity 1,400 ft. of air per minute.

From the *Hedley Gazette* it is learned that the Vermillion Forks Mining Company has entered into a contract with the Great Northern railway to supply 50 tons of coal per day as soon as the railway tracks reach Princeton. Preparations are being made to get the property in shape to supply this quantity.

A correspondent of the *Hedley Gazette*, writing from Camp McKinney, says: The unwatering of the Cariboo mine goes on merrily, the water in the shaft being lowered 6 or 7 ft. in 24 hours. Tenders are called for hauling about 500 cords of wood from the old Aberdeen claim to the hoist.

As a result of the visit of F. W. Guernsey, of the Trail smelter, to the Hall Creek section, above Howser Lake, in the Duncan district, West Kootenay, a few weeks ago, says the *Kaslo Kootenian*, we have it on good authority that the big smelting and mining company is likely to devote considerable attention to that most promising district in the near future.

The *Atlin Claim* states, "on good authority," that, if arrangements now pending be completed, a steam shovel—and probably two—will be working on O'Donnell River next summer. The property has been bonded by J. S. Templin, representing a Seattle company, who, on his last visit, said he would have machinery in the camp early in June.

In its issue of November 8 the *Kootenian* mentioned that the Kootenay Ore Company's sampling works at Kaslo had been running for several days upon Silver Cup and Ruth ore. The whole plant is now operated by electricity, everything working smoothly and satisfactorily.

According to the *Daily News*, James Cronin, late mine manager for the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, when in Nelson early in November declared that the company's St. Eugene mine never looked better, the lower workings showing

up splendidly at the present time, in excess of anything anticipated by the management some time ago.

"Interest in Poplar Creek will revive in the spring," observes the *Kootenian*. "The salvation of that camp lies in erection of small stamp mills, and we understand that several will be erected there next spring. They will work on the small, rich veins of free milling gold with which the district abounds, and possibly the rich showings on the surface may lead to something more substantial underneath."

According to the report of the commissioner of the general land office for the year ending June 30, 1906, mining surveys in Alaska covering 239 locations were received and examined, and 149 were approved. Coal land surveys to the number of 61 were also received, of which 43 were approved. Twenty-six non-mineral surveys of public land were filed by deputies and examined, and 22 of these were forwarded to the commissioner for approval.

It would appear that in the lower Similkameen, under existing conditions, coal is expensive. The *Hedley Gazette* said last month: It is noticed that Princeton coal for the coming winter's fuel supply is commencing to come into town. The cost of freighting it from Princeton makes it \$13 per ton laid down in Hedley, but if a ton of it is equal to 2 1-2 cords of wood, as it is claimed, it would leave it still cheaper than wood at \$7 per cord.

It is evident, says the *Wilmer Outcrop*, that the Paradise mine, which is in the Windermere mining division, East Kootenay, is to be worked on a much larger scale through the coming winter than it has been for the past two years. During the past week a large quantity of supplies has been sent to the mine and the bunk house, are being overhauled. It is stated that all the local miners who wish to go to work there will be given employment.

On November 30 the *Fernie Free Press* announced that the output of the mines at Coal Creek and Michel collieries on Wednesday, 28th inst., amounted to more than 2,500 tons. The coke ovens are working on the old basis once more, all the ovens in use before the strike being fired. With the exception of No. 2 at Coal Creek and No. 5, Michel, all the mines are now back to something like their old output. There are 800 men now employed at Coal Creek and 400 at Michel, and men are coming in daily from outside places to find work at these collieries.

In its "Market Gossip" the *London Critic* said on November 10: "Judging from the statements made to the shareholders on Tuesday, Cariboo Consolidated shares will soon come into market favour. After fighting against difficulties for years the company is at last getting regular returns from the 'wash,' and for more than two months the property has actually been self-supporting. The shareholders are to be