

GREAT WAR EAGLE MINE

This Wonderfully Rich Property Was Discovered by Joe Bourjeoise and Joe Moris in July, 1890.

WAS PURCHASED BY CANADIANS

George Gooderham and T. G. Blackstock Paid \$700,000 for It on Mighty Short Notice—It Has Paid \$250,000 in Dividends—There is 75,000 Tons of Ore in Sight—The Owners Are Rich and Can Therefore Afford to Wait Until the Smelter Question Is Settled So That Ore Can Be Reduced at a More Reasonable Cost—The Property in Charge of a Most Competent Superintendent.

Like the Le Roi, a detailed description of which appeared in last Sunday's Miner, the War Eagle is of its own. Abandoned repeatedly in its early stages it has subsequently developed into a magnificent and prosperous mine. The later history of the property has demonstrated what the "slow" Canadian capitalist can accomplish occasionally in the purchase and development of a mine. The inspection, bonding and purchase of the property for \$700,000, occupied just three weeks.

The History of the War Eagle Mine. The claim was located by Joe Moris and Joe Bourjeoise, two French-Canadian prospectors, in July, 1890. They held the War Eagle till the fall of 1894, when they bonded it to Patsy Clark, of Spokane, for \$17,500. Moris sunk a shaft and started a tunnel on the claim and found ore, but it was too low grade to bear transportation to any of the American smelters. Patsy Clark organized a company in Spokane, taking in John A. Finch, Austin Corbin II, E. J. Roberts, W. J. C. Wakefield and one or two others. Mr. Clark was elected president of the company and John A. Finch vice-president.

When Patsy Clark took charge of the mine as president of the new company, he found it in anything but a promising condition. The camp was new and untried. Most mining men who saw it condemned it. The Le Roi, on which Oliver Durant had begun work as far back as November, 1890, had, at that time, shown none of its marvelous extent and rich ores. It therefore required a good deal of nerve to pay even \$17,500 for the War Eagle.

The new manager at once changed the course of the tunnel Joe Moris had begun and in 10 feet came upon what has since become famous as the War Eagle's big ore chute. This great body of ore ran, as afterwards learned, to the very surface of the ground, and was stopped out, every pound of the ore being of shipping quality. The old slope can now be seen from the surface, and is the only instance of the kind in the camp. This chute was more than 10 feet wide in places, and the finding of it was a piece of rare good fortune. It made the mine famous at once, and early in the year 1895, a few months after the bond had been taken up, the company declared a dividend of \$27,000. This had the effect of advancing the stock to par, and at once made the principal stockholders rich men. The tunnel started by Moris and changed in its course by Patsy Clark, was continued to the west end of the claim, where an upraise was made to the surface.

Early in 1895 the No. 2 tunnel was started near where the office buildings of the company now stand, and was run 1,100 feet, cutting the big ore chute 140 feet below tunnel No. 1. Two separate ore chutes have been opened by this tunnel. This main ore body is, of course, included in the big ore chute, which for a considerable distance on the level of the No. 2 tunnel is over 15 feet wide. Soon after the No. 2 tunnel ran through the big ore chute a station for a hoist was started early in the summer of 1895, its initial point being in Centre Star gulch, on the Iron Mask ground. It will be about 2,500 feet long when completed and is intended to develop both the War Eagle and the Iron Mask.

Some Deals That Have Failed. Many people have tried to buy the War Eagle. It has been a much coveted property from the first. In the summer of 1895 Covington Johnson, of San Francisco, came up to inspect it for a syndicate. He was here several weeks and made a very thorough examination of the mine. Later the same syndicate sent Henry Janin, one of the greatest mining experts in the world, and a brother-in-law of the perhaps better known but no more able expert, Hamilton Smith. Mr. Janin made an exhaustive report on the War Eagle, which has since been regarded as strictly confidential, for it has never been made public. Nor has it ever been made public who were in the syndicate which sent Covington Johnson and Henry Janin to report on the mine, though there is reason to believe that it was the Exploration company of London, with which Janin is prominently connected. The sale was not made. It fell through solely on the ground that the mine at that time was not developed up to the point required by the purchasers. Both Johnson and Janin had a high opinion of the property.

Early in the summer of 1896 D. C. Corbin, president of the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad company, secured an option on the War Eagle on behalf of certain London parties, and the mine was expected by Mr. Kendall and Mr. Fowler. The reports were believed to have been favorable, and in September Frederick W. North and Ernest W. Grant-Govan came over from London as representatives of the Roseland War Eagle Gold Mining company, which had been organized there with a capital of \$2,500,000, to develop the mine. But the deal was never closed. It hung fire from one cause or another, and finally fell through altogether, the reason being no doubt, the overburdening of the selling price in order to compensate a lot of intermediary people in London.

When the London deal for the War Eagle was known to be off, T. G. Blackstock came out to Roseland. This was early in last December. It was at this time that the agreement of sale was drawn up and signed. It was kept exceedingly quiet, very few knowing anything about it. J. B. Hastings, expert for Messrs. Gooderham and Blackstock, was here at the time the agreement was signed, and immediately went into the mine to make an examination. He was there about ten days, and first sent in his report to Messrs. Gooderham and Blackstock at Toronto.

In the original agreement the option to purchase was to expire January 2. But the time by mutual agreement was extended to January 7. Matters drifted along until January 20, when a special meeting of shareholders of the company was called in Spokane to consider pending offers for the property. These were as follows: The Gooderham-Blackstock syndicate offered \$700,000 cash for the mine as it then stood, without assets or credits of any kind. F. E. Henace, for an English syndicate, \$900,000, to include all credits and cash, \$200,000 cash balance in 40 days. F. E. Burbridge \$900,000, to include all credits and cash, \$25,000 cash payment, half in 80 days and the balance in 90 days, together with ten per cent of the stock in the new company.

The Mine Sold to Gooderham and Blackstock. On a vote being taken the Gooderham-Blackstock offer was accepted, 267,145 shares, out of a total of 441,000 shares present voting for it. The new company took formal possession of the mine on January 22. John B. Hastings, then consulting engineer for properties owned by the purchasers, was appointed manager and has held that position up to date. The War Eagle Consolidated company, certain the War Eagle and Crown Point group in the Trail Creek district and the Richmond group in the Slocan, was then floated, with a capital of \$2,000,000, George Gooderham being the first president and T. G. Blackstock vice-president. At the time of the flotation the Gooderham interest represented 1,037,500 shares in the new company. This interest, it is understood, practically remains unchanged today.

The transaction was properly regarded at the time as the most important deal ever carried out in the camp. The purchasers being well known Canadians and keen buyers, additional interest in Roseland was created in Toronto and the east generally. Since the purchase, Mr. Blackstock has twice inspected the progress made by Mr. Hastings, the second time being accompanied by Mr. Gooderham, who left here only a few weeks ago. This year the mine has shipped 6,538 tons of ore, but the management, some weeks ago, decided to follow the policy adopted by the Centre Star, and block out ore only, awaiting the development of the smelter question.

There Are 75,000 Tons of Ore in Sight. A visit to the mine yesterday brought out some interesting figures. At present some 85 or 90 men are actively engaged in developing the property; when shipping is resumed, this force will be increased to 150, the number employed a few weeks ago. In the upper tunnel and crosscuts at the 110-foot level, 1,000 feet of work has been done; on the second or 250-foot level, 2,000 feet; on the third or 375-foot level 350 feet; and 900 feet on the lower or 500-foot level. The main winze is down 250 feet below the second level. All told 4,500 feet of tunneling, 500 feet of shafting and 800 feet of upraising has been accomplished since the property was first worked, and thirty thousand tons of ore have been shipped, returning \$300,000. Since the 20th of January, the time the new company took hold, 1,900 feet of tunneling and crosscutting, 200 feet of shafting and about 400 feet of upraising; in all 2,500 feet of work has been done, representing \$70,000 worth of development. A conservative estimate of "ore in sight" at the present time is placed at 75,000 tons. Last month the original War Eagle company held their closing meeting, when a last final dividend was declared, making the total dividends paid about \$250,000.

John Beasley Hastings, the obliging manager, is a Liverpool man, in his 39th year. He has been engaged in western mining since 1876, and in British Columbia 18 months. He feels the full weight of his responsibilities, but always finds or makes time to answer inquiring visitors. John Fitzwilliams, the foreman of the mine, is one of the best known practical miners in the camp, and is of great help to Manager Hastings. Mr. Hastings has sent a valuable exhibit to the coming Toronto exhibition consisting of the following: From the War Eagle—One sample of quartz, 21x16, weighing about 100 pounds, carrying a little copper, which might be called almost free milling; a sample from the top side of this piece assayed \$375 in gold, and a sample from the bottom \$80 in gold. This quartz vein lays alongside the pyrrhotite vein. Another sample of 75 pounds, representative of a six-foot vein, taken from a recent shipment of a carload lot, ran \$25 in gold, 35 ounces in silver, five per cent copper, 36 per cent iron and 24 per cent silica. It was sent as a sample of especially favorable smelting ore. From the Crown Point—A 100-pound piece taken from a point where the vein is six feet wide and samples \$38 in gold, very heavy in iron, with but little copper and silver.

The mine was never in a better condition than it stands today, as the fortunate owners very well know. The vein has been proved to the depth of 500 feet without any sign of failing, and beyond all question the property is bound to rank with the great mines of the world.

ARE MENACES TO LIFE.

Dynamite Magazines to Be Constructed Outside of City Limits.

The cases against Hunter Bros. and Claude Oregan, for storing dynamite in the city limits, contrary to law, were heard Saturday morning, by Police Magistrate Jordan. The defendants stated that they had no wish to violate the ordinances on the subject, and for some time past had been in correspondence with their companies with a view to building suitable magazines at a point far enough from the city to protect it against the danger of a possible explosion. Work on the new warehouses would already have been begun if suitable sites could have been secured. At present they were negotiating for the purchase of several acres of land near Blue's sawmill, and if this could be secured, they would at once put up fire-proof magazines, into which their present stock would be moved. The site is in accordance with the provincial statutes, which requires that powder magazines must be at least two miles from any town.

On the defendants' assurance that they would vacate their present magazines in the southern part of town just as soon as possible, Magistrate Jordan continued the case until Wednesday next. Meanwhile Messrs. Hunter Bros. and Mr. Oregan agree to keep a watchman at the present magazines to guard against brush fires.

IS HE LEGALLY DEAD?

Hugh O'Neil Turns Up After His Estate Had Been Probated.

It Was Reported That He Had Starved to Death in the Mountains. But is in Good Health.

Hugh O'Neil is one of the few men who have had the pleasure of reading their own funeral notices, with all the accompanying eulogiums. Mr. O'Neil left here about six weeks ago on a prospecting trip along the Pend d'Oreille. He had hardly been gone two weeks before it was reported that he had been taken sick on his trip and being unable to prepare his food had literally died of starvation. The report was apparently confirmed in the Victoria Colonist of July 25, and the Colonist in its account of the sad affair waxed quite eloquent over the many amiable qualities of the deceased. The report caused no little sorrow among Mr. O'Neil's friends in Victoria, who had known him since the news reached his sister in Toronto, and action was commenced to secure the administration of his estate.

His old friends were slowly becoming reconciled to his death when on Friday night the presumptive corpse came trucking back to town, not only very much alive, but in the very best of health. It transpired that his reported death was a mistake from the ground up, for he was evidently a very animated corpse, and he assured his friends that he had not had a sick moment during his entire trip. His prospecting had been as successful as he could have wished and he staked off some very promising placer grounds. Now Mr. O'Neil is trying to have the administration of his estate set aside, for he has no objection to it, but it will accommodate his relations, he would like to have some advance notice of when his demise is expected.

A similar case occurred in Washington a year or two since. A man disappeared and it hung fire from one cause or another, and finally fell through altogether, the reason being no doubt, the overburdening of the selling price in order to compensate a lot of intermediary people in London.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Rights of Aliens.

ROSSLAND, Aug. 25. EDITOR MINER—Sir: Can you inform your readers, here at the Le Roi mine, whether there is a United States law to the effect that a Canadian, or other foreigner, must first have declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States before he can obtain employment in that country; and whether the party who employs such foreigner is liable to a fine? Yours truly, H. E. ABELL.

[There is no such law. The United States has a law against the employment of contract labor, and the Dominion parliament passed an act to the same lines at its last session. This law is in force in Roseland, and any mining company which contracts with laborers in the United States, or any other foreign country, is liable to a fine. Both countries also have laws against the employment of aliens who reside in the employment of aliens. For instance, if a smelter were built at Waneta, on the Canadian side, it would be unlawful to employ Americans who lived across the line; and if a smelter were in operation in Boundary, Wash., it would be unlawful to employ Canadians or other aliens who lived on the Canadian side of the Pend d'Oreille river.—Ed.]

A Providential Escape.

From the Atlanta Constitution: A negro boy who had stolen a horse was pursued by an angry crowd of rural citizens. The frightened negro jumped into a river and struck out for the other side. When half way over he was seized by a monster alligator and disappeared instantly. The foreman of the vigilance committee turned to his men and said solemnly: "Boys, I'm done with this here lynchin' business—done with it for ever! Providence is ag'in it. A alligator has done swallowed the nigger whole!"

An Optical Illusion.

From the Washington Star. "It's a dreadful thing to be as near-sighted as Dicky Doodles," remarked one young woman, sympathetically. "It must lead to embarrassment." "It does. Yesterday evening when his best friend came up the street wearing one of the new-fashioned colored shirts, Dicky stopped short and exclaimed to his companion: 'I say, old man, what a lovely sunnet we're having.'"

Palermo, Sicily, has an average of 167 cloudless days a year and 62 days of partial cloud and partial sunshine which elsewhere would be classed as fine days.

WHITE METAL CAMP

Sandon the Center of a Great Silver Lead District.

IT HAS 42 ORE SHIPPERS

Twenty of These Ship Regularly, While the Rest Are Intermittent—Sunset Has Ore Similar to the Le Roi—Dundas Shaft to Be Deepened.

"Sandon," said J. L. Parker, the mining engineer, Saturday, "is in what might be termed the tenderloin of the richest silver-lead district that I ever visited or heard of. It has a great future before it. I have just been on a tour of observation among its mines, and I must say I was astonished at the great showing which has been made. There are 42 shipping mines in the vicinity of Sandon, and 20 of them are regular shippers and the others are intermittent.

"What are the names of the shippers? Let me see. Why, there's the Alamo, Idaho Ruth, Slocan Star, Payne, Slocan Boy, Washington Great Western, R. E. Antoinette, Best, Fox, Silver Bell, Noble Five, Surprise, Last Chance, Ajax, Ruecau, Goodenough, Best and Rambler Cariboo. That's twenty, isn't it? Two more miles away, too, there are two other shipping mines, the Wellington and the Sunset. When the later stage of development is reached, the output of these mines will be simply phenomenal. Sandon is to that district what Roseland is to the Trail Creek district.

"Does the low price of silver affect Sandon district seriously? No; while the silver miners realize that it cuts down their profits, the ore is of such high grade that most of them say that they could still mine at a profit were silver to fall to even 20 cents per ounce. The veins are in slate and lime, are opened by tunnels and hence are cheaply worked.

"To particularize as to these mines there is the Payne mines for instance. It has the longest chute of silver-lead I ever saw. It is 900 feet in length, the width of the vein varies from two to four feet, and it yields 180 ounces of silver and 70 per cent lead to the ton.

"The Slocan Star has an ore chute 500 feet in length and its ore body is 37 feet wide. There is 8 feet of galena on the hanging wall and eight feet on the foot wall. Between these there is a barren portion. The ore gives 90 ounces in silver and 60 per cent lead. On this property they have a concentrator of 150 tons capacity per day, which turns out 30 tons of concentrates every 24 hours.

"The Ruecau and Goodenough are two properties that are being worked through the same tunnel. The veins are only four inches in width and the ore carries from 500 to 600 ounces in silver and 70 per cent lead to the ton. The former mine paid \$100,000 in dividends last year, and the small vein.

"In this section the lead pays all the expenses of mining and reduction, while the silver is clear profit. A curious thing about the county is that the richest silver-lead ores are found between 4,000 and 8,000 feet above sea level. Below the first altitude mentioned the ores are usually of low grade. Like every rule, however, there are occasional exceptions. Hence, the rich mines are high up in the mountains. You will see men working up there in Slocan, where one would think it impossible for a goat to secure a firm foothold."

Is Just Like Le Roi Ore.

In the window of the Walters company is some rock that is attracting the admiring attention of miners here. It came from tunnel No. 1 of the Sunset mine. It was blasted out of the tunnel 90 feet horizontally and 45 feet vertically from the surface. In the same window is a large chunk of ore from the 500-foot level of the Le Roi, and it is so much like the one from the Sunset that they cannot tell them apart. At the Sunset the foundation is all ready for the seven-drill compressor which is being put in. In 30 or 40 days thereafter the company will begin to ship ore. At first its shipments will be from one to ten carloads a week.

Will Sink 100 Feet Further.

The Dundee Gold Mining company has advertised for bids to sink a shaft 825 feet in the clear on its property near Ymir. This is a 140-foot shaft on the property at present, and the intention is to deepen this another 100 feet. The Dundee company owns the Parker, Old Bill and Lighthouse claims, which are located between Wild Horse and Porcupine creeks, near Ymir. The vein, which is in quartz and 18 feet wide, runs through all the properties of the company. The assays so far average from \$16 to \$42 per ton. It is only three and a quarter miles from the railway, with which it is connected by a good wagon road. Superintendent Parker informs a Miner reporter that it is the intention to soon send a carload of the ore to a smelter in order to have it tested.

A Strike on the Wild Horse.

At the office of Dabney & Parker, Saturday, they were showing some silver galena ore that came from the properties of the Wild Horse Gold Mining company. The ore was struck at a depth of 20 feet and the galena found is covered with carbonate. Though this ore has not yet been assayed experts pronounce it rich in silver and lead. The vein is 18 inches wide. The Wild Horse company has several claims located near Ymir, which are thought to be valuable properties.

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Switzerland, though she spends only half a million dollars yearly on her army, can turn out 100,000 trained men in two days in case of need, and has a reserve of 100,000 more, and a landstrum of 270,000. The army manoeuvres this year will be held in the mountains of the Engadine.



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This company owns five valuable claims. The directors have decided to limit the first and present issue of treasury stock to 50,000 shares, and this number will be sold at the low price of Five Cents per share. When they have been sold it is further decided to raise the price to at least ten cents per share.

This company's properties have a wonderful surface showing.

On the Denmark, one of the company's properties, a very important strike has just been made.

The property is being worked night and day.

All promoters' stock is pooled.

A concentrator is now being erected on an adjoining property, and arrangements will be made to handle the company's ores.

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A Few Facts Concerning Mineral City.

The mines on Cariboo Creek in the famous SLOCAN DISTRICT are tributary to Mineral City. A wagon road is now being built by the provincial government from Arrow Lake to Mineral City.

Mineral City will be to the Cariboo district what Roseland is to the Trail Creek district. See key plan at any agents office.

A sample shipment of 60 tons of ore was sent to the Trail smelter which assayed \$60 in gold to the ton.

The conditions in Mineral City are the same as in Roseland when it started. Like Roseland it is in the middle of the mines.

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