

THE LYNN CREEK CLAIMS.

Mr. Varco, the owner of the Lynn claim, on Lynn creek, North Vancouver, antagonizes the statement that the Findlay syndicate of Vancouver threw up the option on the claims by reason of the disappointing nature of the ore and the presence of too much zinc. The option was abandoned, so he states, by reason of inability on the part of the syndicate to secure the necessary further capital, those associated in the venture differing in opinion as to management and other methods. The owner, who is developing the claim, states that he has exposed an ore body eight feet in width, with ore assaying nearly \$50, mostly in copper; and also asserts that the main ledge is free from zinc. He is sanguine of good results in the early future, and holds strongly by the mineral possibilities of Lynn creek.

AND IT'S TRUE.

The Slocan mining district has been damaged more through the practice of companies placing men in charge of the workings of the mine, regardless of their experience as mining men, simply because they had a "pull" on some of the members of the company, than all other influences combined. Good properties have, for the time being, been ruined, and the district in which they were situated received a "black eye" by the properties being thrown up as worthless, and large sums of money squandered. Time alone will convince the inexperienced investor in mines that a pair of yellow leg-gings does not make an expert miner.—Silvertonian.

THE FAIRVIEW CONSOLIDATED AND THE SMUGGLER.

The Fairview Company will, it is stated, this spring erect and begin to work a 20-stamp mill, the Smuggler a 60-stamp one. The Consolidated needs the larger mill as the company owns sixteen claims. This year should give a good test of the value of the free-milling gold deposits of the promising district of Fairview, which, like Lillooet, attracts increasing attention in England. On the fate of these two districts the early future of free-gold mining in British Columbia largely now depends.

THE PILOT BAY CONCENTRATOR.

This concentrator will make, pending the reblowing in of the owning company's smelter, 500 shipments of concentrates to the smelter at Omaha.

A MINE SALE.

The Blue Bird Mining Company holds a general meeting at Kaslo on the 12th instant, with a view to make a sale of the property.

THE WORLD'S GOLD OUTPUT.

The director of the United States mint at Washington states that, from information now at hand, there is substantial evidence that the world's product of gold for the calendar year, 1897 will approximate, if not exceed \$240,000,000, an increase of nearly 20 per cent. over that of 1896. The gold product of the United States for 1896 was \$53,100,000; for 1897 it will approximate \$61,500,000, an increase of \$8,500,000. The product of Africa for 1896 was \$44,400,000; returns received up to December 1, 1897, indicate that the gold product of that country, for the year, will be \$58,000,000, an increase of \$13,600,000. Australasia's product for 1896 was \$45,200,000; for 1897, the indications are that it will not be less than \$51,000,000, an increase of \$5,800,000. Mexico, for 1896, shows \$8,330,000; for 1897, it is estimated that it will be \$10,000,000, an increase of \$1,670,000. The Dominion of Canada, for 1896, produced \$2,800,000; it is estimated that for 1877 the output will be \$7,500,000, or an increase of \$4,700,000. India's product for 1897 is estimated at \$7,500,000, an increase of \$1,400,000 over 1896. Russia's gold product for 1896 was \$21,550,000; for 1897 it is estimated to approximate \$25,000,000, an increase of \$3,500,000. From which it is in particular evident, that though our Dominion's gold yield is steadily advancing, having far more than doubled in the year just ended, Canada's gold output is far yet from its zenith of possible attainment. At present the Dominion yields a thirty-second part of the world's gold output.

THE SLAUGHTER OF WILD CAT COMPANIES.

Now begins a general slaughter and dissolution of a host of wild cat mining companies, last year organized in British Columbia with nominal capitals of \$1,000,000, of which, as a rule, not more than \$2,000 to \$3,000 were afterwards at most subscribed. These companies will not be able to pay Provincial registration fees, which, adjusted mainly ad valorem, will call for an outlay of about \$400. Hence, within a month or so we shall hear no more of nine-tenths of the hastily organized mining companies of 1897. Many, but not all, of the remaining tenth of those then organized will survive, and a smaller fraction of these in due course ship ore and pay dividends. There are probably now about a hundred British Columbia precious metal mining companies that "mean business." Last year there were hundreds of others—on paper. The change is distinctly for the better, and fortunately the aggregate loss of capital involved in the disappearance of the wild cats is not large. Most of them failed to gather in much more than enough to pay for printing, office and other preliminary expenses of attempted flotation.