

ROSSLAND WEEKLY MINER.

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THE TRAIL SMELTER

Impressions on a Recent Visit to Mr. Heinze's Big Plant.

GOLD READY FOR MINTING

Description of the Various Processes Through Which the Ore Passes Before the Precious Metal is Extracted in Canada's Only Refinery.

The fact has already been stated that a representative of THE MINER was present at the Trail smelter Wednesday night when the first gold ingot was produced in the refinery of that busy institution. Part of a day and night spent there but served to emphasize the fact that the Trail smelter has grown enormously in the less than two years of its existence. The addition of a refinery is only one step in the enlargement of the capacity of the institution.

One of the most striking features is the roasting of large quantities of ore, which formerly was not done at all. There are now \$300,000 worth of ore in these roasting heaps. And yet only a part of the ore run through the smelter is treated in this manner. The roasting takes out the sulphur and arsenic, and the loss in weight and bulk is from 15 to 25 per cent.

How the Ore is Roasted. The ore for roasting is laid in heaps about 50 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 10 or 12 feet high. The heaps are in the form of an oblong pyramid. The base is made of dry wood, and when the heap is ready to be fired coal oil is poured on the borders of the wood base and a match applied. The flame leaks around the heap in a moment and the wood is soon burning throughout. The sulphur and arsenic in the ore takes fire and the lower part of the heap soon becomes a red hot mass with vent holes here and there in the outer shell through which escapes a stifling smoke. The wood simple starts the fire, the ore supplying its own fuel.

It requires about six weeks to burn out the entire mass. There are five or six heaps now on fire two or three almost ready to start and two or three burnt out. Those burnt out look like huge cinder piles. The ore on the outside as it is being burned out, sometimes takes on the most brilliant red and saffron colorings and the smoke which comes from the vent holes is also often richly colored.

As a matter of fact the ore is partially smelted as it goes through the roasting process. It is from 15 to 25 per cent nearer copper matte. This is accomplished with very little expense, so that the roasting process is an economic measure when a smelter has plenty of ore and plenty of capital with which to buy the ore and hold it. For the last few months the Trail smelter has been receiving ore much more rapidly than it could treat it, hence the surplus on hand.

Refinery and Its Product. The refinery is naturally the most interesting place about the smelter. It is a building erected expressly for the purpose, off by itself and kept closed against visitors. Here Mr. Bellinger, the youthful looking superintendent, has spent many a day, and night too, in the most patient endeavors to discover certain new methods for extraction of the gold from the copper matte produced by the smelter proper. He has been completely successful as has already told in THE MINER, and the entire product of the furnace can now be made to yield up its gold and silver if it is so desired.

About 225 tons of ore a day are now being smelted, which if it averages \$30 per ton, a low estimate, would yield \$6,750 a day, or a little over 20 pounds of gold a day. This is something more than the amount of gold in the brick made Wednesday night, so that enough gold is in the ore to make seven or eight pounds every week to make seven or eight hundred bricks, at a total value of 140 to 160 pounds of the precious metal.

From Matte to Bullion. The matte used in the refinery is of very high grade, running several thousand dollars to the ton, and when freshly broken has a bright steel color with little blister spots all through it. This high grade matte is put through a special furnace in the refinery and is thus still further reduced. The actual extraction of gold and silver is largely a purely chemical process in which certain acids play a prominent part. When the gold emerges from this process it is in the form of a soft pulp. This is wrapped in cotton cloths put into iron pans and thrust into ovens for drying. When the drying process is completed the product, which is of the consistency of coarse meal or flakes of wheat, is put into a graphite crucible and melted in a small furnace. When the fusing is complete the molten metal is poured into moulds a little smaller than an ordinary brick, and that is the end of the business, the gold of the finished brick being free from all blemish or chemical impurity. It is now ready to go to the mint and be converted into money.

A Credit to the Province. One cannot see the Trail smelter in all its extensive operations without being profoundly impressed with the magnitude and value of the work done by Mr. Heinze. It is an institution of which any camp, state, province or country might well be proud. It not only gives profitable employment to large capital and much labor, paying out \$20,000 a month in wages alone, but it gives character and stability to the mining industry of the province and fame to the mining community from which it draws its supply of ore.

IN FULL BLAST AGAIN.

All Damages to the Le Roi's Hoist Were Quickly Repaired.

The accident at the Le Roi was remedied so promptly that at 7 o'clock Sunday night the full force resumed operations, and work is now being carried on as though nothing had happened. The mine was only blocked for about 28 hours and the damage will not exceed \$500. It seems that the first report of the accident was somewhat exaggerated.

The accident was caused by an understudy of the engineer's, who, when the latter was away for a moment, tried to answer some signals, though he had been cautioned not to monkey with the hoist. In endeavoring to lift the skip he lost all control of the machinery, and the cage came jumping up the shaft at a terrific speed. It dumped the ore in a proper place, and then shot up to the top of the gallow's frame, where it broke out two angle-beams, each 12x20 inches in size. By this time the man managed to reverse the hoist, and the skip came tearing down at full speed till it reached the mouth of the shaft, where it fortunately caught on some planking and was stopped.

In the meantime the would-be engineer had started the opposite skip down the shaft and down it went pell-mell till it struck the bottom. By that time the chief engineer was on the scene, and prevented any further damage.

No one fell down the shaft and with the exception of the injury to the gallow's frame and the skip no damage was done. The temporary shut-down, however, delayed the bringing up of some \$8,000 worth of ore, which had been knocked down. The accident fortunately happened at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when only a few of the men were in positions where they would be endangered.

Le Roi's New Bank House.

The large new bank house at the Le Roi is nearly completed, and it will be ready for occupancy inside of two weeks more. It is two and a half stories high, will be lathed, plastered and heated by steam. The bed rooms will accommodate 88 men, and the top floor will be comfortably fitted out as a reading and lounging room.

THE WATERS MEET MINE.

A Champion Creek Property Which is Developing Very Satisfactorily. M. Healy, general manager of the Golden Plate Consolidated Mining company, left Tuesday for his home in Smith's Falls, Ont. He has been here since June 1 in the interests of his company, whose property is situated on Champion creek in the Waterloo district.

A tunnel has been driven 65 feet on the Waters Meet claim, and a force of men is now at work sinking a shaft on a chute of pay ore, which was crosscut about 20 feet from the surface. This shaft is now down 35 feet and looks very favorably. The ore is a solid sulphide and carries good values in gold, silver and copper. The tunnel will be continued until the iron cap, which is 100 feet wide on the surface, has been crossed and on the footwall it is expected to strike another pay streak. The work will be continued during the winter under the management of J. B. Donald.

Mr. Healy has secured some other properties in the Ymir district for which he yesterday refused an offer of \$5,000 from the representative of an English syndicate.

THE BIG BEND COUNTRY.

John Moynahan Brought Back Fine Samples of Galena and Sulphide Ores. John Moynahan has returned from a trip to the Big Bend. He went to a point on the Columbia 50 miles above Revelstoke and examined a number of prospects. He brought down a large number of samples of ore from various prospects. These samples are now on exhibition in THE MINER office.

Mr. Moynahan is much pleased with the portion of the Big Bend he saw, but the country still labors under the disadvantage of inaccessibility. It costs a great deal to get freight and supplies into the country. The ores are silver-lead and iron sulphides. Some of the sulphides carry copper. A specimen of sulphide from the Lakewick is very fine. It is as solid as cast metal and runs about \$14 in gold.

HAS LOTS OF ORE.

Iron Mask Only Taking Out Enough to Pay for Development.

Development work is progressing very favorably on the Iron Mask, under the management of Superintendent Hall. Sixty-five tons of ore were shipped last week, and that amount could have been materially increased had it been so desired. Mr. Hall is only breaking down enough ore to pay the expenses of opening up the property, and is not endeavoring to push the capacity of the mine. The ore now being taken out is coming from the west drift in the shaft, on the original ore body. The main shaft is to be sunk 100 feet further, and the No. 1 shaft is also to be deepened 50 feet, which will put it 270 feet under the surface.

Situation at the Cliff.

The Cliff was out of the list of ships last week, while some active development work was being done. Considerable underpinning was carried on in the upper tunnel and yesterday the miners began breaking down the ore body they have just opened up. It is expected that shipments for this week will average about 15 tons of good ore per day. The force is to be immediately increased to 10 men.

The Ottawa to Resume.

Development work on the Ottawa, which was suspended some time ago, is to be resumed immediately under the management of G. A. Pounder. This property is a few hundred feet south of the Deer Park and near the Silver Bell. The gentlemen who are interested in it are strong financially and will develop it in a systematic manner.

SUNSET IS A DANDY TRIP TO NORTHPORT

Shaft on the South Vein Shows Eight Feet of Solid Ore.

AVERAGES \$30 PER TON GETTING MATERIAL READY

The Ore Carries an Excess of Iron and a Good Per Centage of Copper—Three Machine Drills Will Soon Be At Work.

The continued fine appearance of the Sunset No. 2 mine is a matter of general congratulation. Many mining men have been over to see it within the past week and all unite in the opinion that the Sunset promises to be one of the good properties of the camp.

The biggest showing is still on the south vein, where the shaft is now down nearly 40 feet. A crosscut has been run to the hanging wall and the solid ore found to be from eight to nine feet wide. This is not mixed ore, but is all solid, clean, fine looking sulphide, carrying a good deal of copper. The ore looks very much like that from the War Eagle. It carries an excess of iron and enough copper to make a capital smelting ore. So far as quality is concerned the ore is all right. It runs over \$30 in all values. The shaft will be continued right on down through the fine ore body to the 100 foot level, when drifts will be started. The ground is being levelled off for the new steam hoist, and it will not be long till a machine drill is pounding away in the shaft.

The shaft on the middle vein is also looking well. The vein has straightened up and is now going down alright. The ore here carries a higher per centage of copper than that of the south vein, but the ore body is much smaller.

It is now known that three well defined veins of pay ore are on the Sunset ground. Three machine drills will soon be at work in the tunnel. The Sunset is one of the most richly mineralized pieces of ground in the camp. Although lying in the south belt the ore and the geological features are identical with those of the part of Red Mountain which the Le Roi, War Eagle, Centre Star and Josie are around. A little south of the Sunset is the ledge running through the Homestake group of mines. Here there are evidences of a change in formation and a change in the character of the ore. The line of contact is a short distance south of the Homestake ledge, and when that is crossed there come the Bluebird, Mayflower, Red Eagle, Lily May, Hattie Brown and other mines carrying silver and white iron. The Sunset, Gold Hunter, Old Hundred, Nest Egg and others in that neighborhood are part of the Red Mountain group and we shall not be surprised to see developed there some of the finest ore bodies of the camp.

GAVE UP THE FIGHT.

Brewers Pay Their Fines and Quit Selling Beer by Retail.

H. Henderson, G. H. Granden and John Murphy, the three brewers who were recently fined \$25 each for selling beer at retail, appeared in the police court Saturday and paid their fines. This means that their cases will not be appealed to a higher court, as has been talked of.

The brewers claimed that they were acting under instructions of the Dominion inspector, George H. Miller, in selling beer at retail. They also allege that William S. Jones, the local revenue inspector, gave them the same instructions, to-wit, that they could sell their product to whom they chose, and in such quantities as they pleased, and that the city authorities had no jurisdiction over them. The city cannot, under their law, grant them a license to sell at retail, and in fact there is no law under which the city can exercise any sort of jurisdiction over them for the reason that they are responsible to the Dominion inspector, who also alleges that William S. Jones, the local revenue inspector, gave them the same instructions, to-wit, that they could sell their product to whom they chose, and in such quantities as they pleased, and that the city authorities had no jurisdiction over them. 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