

Current Mining News.

Contributions from any part of British Columbia and the mining districts of a reliable nature will be published in these columns, and we request that minor men write us about the progress of the mines of their district. We desire to publish all mining news.

THE HALL MINES SMELTER.

The smelter is temporarily shut down for repairs, but will be blown in again at the beginning of the New Year. Meanwhile the produce of the blast furnace is being saved for treatment in the new roaster and reverberatory furnaces, which will be fired early in January. The lead furnace, now ready, will also be blown in shortly when raw-hiding is general and transport consequently easy in the Slokan's great silver-lead region.

BENNETT LAKE MINING DIVISION.

A new mining division has been created, to be called the Bennett Lake Mining Division, commencing at a point where the northern boundary of British Columbia intersects the height of land between Lake Teslin and Lake Atlin; thence southwesterly following the height of land to the watershed between Pike lake and Kateene river; thence southwesterly to a point on the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia, midway between Taku inlet and Lynn canal; thence following the said boundary north and west to its intersection with the northern boundary of British Columbia; thence east along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

COAST CLAIMS SOLD.

Mr. J. H. Adams, of Vancouver, and Mr. J. D. Sword, of Rossland, agent of the Ingersoll Drill Company, at Rossland, have become owners of the Champion and Commonwealth claims on the west side of Phillips Arm. The claims are situated near the Dorothy, Morton and Empress, and about \$500 worth of work has been done on them. The price paid was \$25,000, 10 per cent. down, and the balance in 6 and 12 months. Development work is to be started within 10 days and carried on continuously. The new owners will immediately construct a wagon road and get in machinery.

ROSSLAND'S MINERS.

There are now nearly 700 men steadily employed in the Rossland mines on a monthly pay-roll of about \$60,000. Of these the Le Roi company employs 236, the War Eagle 90, and the Centre Star company 30.

CARIBOO NUGGETS.

A despatch from Tacoma, dated December 17th, says: "The prettiest lot of nuggets that has been seen in this city for many a day was the lot which Mr. J. E. McReynolds was showing to a few of his friends in the Graves and Backus bank yesterday afternoon. Mr. McReynolds was asked as to the location from which they came. Taking a map of British Columbia he pointed to the Cariboo country, and denoted the exact place by putting his finger in the very heart of the district. The place designated by his finger was the junction of Snowshoe and Keithly creeks. Here his company, the Squall Mining Company, has already secured Crown grants to 160 acres of land, and has asked for patents to 240 more. They are taking the gold out by a hydraulic process. The plant had to be packed in for a long distance, and was only gotten in working shape 26 hours before the snow compelled Mr. McReynolds to quit those parts very hurriedly, and he nearly lost his life as it was, going for two days in a blinding snowstorm in the heart of the mountains. During this 26 hours' run, \$549 were taken out in nuggets and coarse gold, some of the nuggets going over \$25.

Mr. McReynolds says he will return to that country next April, leaving Ashcroft, the nearest railway station, about the first of that month, and reaching the scene of his operations two weeks later. This will give six months in the country. He is very enthusiastic over his prospects.

R. A. Brown, of Grand Forks, has concluded a deal whereby the famous Sunset copper property in the Similkameen country will pass into the hands of a Rossland company. He stated that he is sacrificing the property in order to procure funds to clear up his title on the Volcanic mine, which is the subject of much litigation. The Sunset is one of the richest copper propositions in the west, assaying as high as 78 per cent. copper.

The Canadian Copper Company, an Ohio organization, and the Anglo-American Iron Company, which control the output from the Sudbury nickel and copper mines, have broken the contract by which they were domiciled in Canada, and instead of establishing smelting works for the reduction of ores in Canada, which, according to their charters, they should have done, they have taken their ore to the United States and had it smelted there, and they have also expended in wages and railway freights about \$1,250,000 per acre outside of Canada. Mr. B. B. Osler, Q. C., of Toronto, has filed a petition with the Attorney-General of Canada for permission to bring an action against said companies to revoke their charters.