

estimate to credit the company with \$35,000. The company is said to have had delivered in Atlin some \$12,000 worth of high-carbon steel plates for lining its sluiceways, so it would appear as though the company not only had money in hand, but also high expectations from its property. The development of this property is one of the new features of the camp this past season.

Spruce Creek.—It is reported that the Spruce Creek Power Company did not operate. On the Gladstone lease, James McCloskey, though said not to have taken out quite as much as in 1912, is still credited with some \$45,000. Individuals working on Spruce Creek—of whom there are quite a number—are reported to have realized in the neighborhood of \$44,000; included in this are material outputs by McPherson, Matthews, and others.

Only a small output is expected from Wilson creek, probably not over from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

On McKee creek, the individual holdings have been pretty well absorbed by the one large company operating on the creek, the Pittsburg-British Gold Company, which is reported to have had a successful season and to have recovered about \$35,000, from which it is unofficially reported dividends were paid to the extent of \$10,000.

O'Donnell river seems to have proved attractive to J. M. Ruffner, who has been developing property there, since he had not "come out" by the end of the year, and, consequently, definite information is as yet lacking. He is said to have been meeting with fair success, although his output this year is not expected to be much over \$3,000.

The area of the Atlin placer-gold field seems to be gradually extending and promises well for a continuance of its production.

Mineral Claims.—The only lode mine producing in this division is the property of the Northern Partnership—formerly the Engineer group—on the east side of Taku arm. The property is and has been equipped for some years with a 2-stamp mill, which has been in operation for a considerable part of this past season, producing a certain amount of gold—how much is not known, although it is claimed that the quartz treated was quite rich.

Mr. O. H. Partridge and Hon. M. Edgerton were developing the Ben M'Chree at the southern end of Taku arm, but appear to have at least temporarily abandoned that work, and have been engaged in development work on the White Moose, on the west side of the arm—not on the old location on the beach, but some distance up the hill to the westward—with what they claim to be very satisfactory results.

The claims in Rainy Hollow, on the headwaters of the Klehini river, do not appear to have had much attention this past season, further than the assessment work necessary to keep them alive.

Good roads have been built into the district, but no serious work has resulted on the claims, nor any output recorded.

Stikine and Liard Mining Divisions.

In the Stikine division proper there is no mining going on, and as far as is known very little prospecting; all that has been heard of is a little on the Iskut river by the Iskut Mining Company. There is no placer-mining in this division.

The southeastern portion of the division includes a large part of the Groundhog coalfield, which was described in last year's report, and in which during this

past season work has been confined to prospecting, with no serious development, and nothing further has been learned that would indicate the future of the camp.

In the Liard division the only work going on is a certain amount of placer-mining in the vicinity of Dease lake. The only important workings there are those of the Boulder Creek Mining Company, operating a hydraulic plant on Thibert creek, fully described in last year's report. This company has been at work all season, working in the new pit, which is reported as proving very satisfactory and producing a fair amount of gold, the exact amount not yet being known.

The flats at the mouth of Dease creek, described in the report mentioned, have this year been the scene of extensive drilling operations by two companies, for the purpose of testing the gold-tenure of the gravels, which, if these preliminary operations prove satisfactory, will lead to the establishment of a dredging plant, to which mode of working the ground is eminently suited.

Queen Charlotte Division.

As yet, no report of actual production this year has been received from the Queen Charlotte division. On Graham Island, prospecting for coal has been carried on by several parties in the interior of the island, but the results so far obtained have not as yet proved coal of commercial importance.

Boring for oil has been going on at the north of the island, without having met with success.

The British Pacific Coal Mines, which partly equipped a colliery on Skidegate inlet last year, has apparently not continued work to any great extent, nor become a producer.

The very interesting discovery was made that a part of the seam opened up at this place consisted of a peculiar form of carbon, which has been classed by a Russian geologist as schungite, and is described as an intermediate state between anthracite and graphite.

The practical peculiarity of the mineral is that, while it has all the appearance of being good coal, it will not burn and cannot be ignited in a blast-gas flame.

On Moresby Island, on the east coast, the usual amount of development and assessment work has been done on the claims near Lockeport and at Ikeda bay, while work has also been done on Huston inlet claims and on Copper Island, Kunghit Island and Collison bay.

On the west coast of the island, on Tasu harbor, important work has been carried on all year by Mr. R. R. Hedley and associates in developing a copper property containing magnetite impregnated with copper-pyrites. A crosscut adit tunnel has been driven in for 300 feet, which, according to Mr. Hedley's sampling and assays, cuts several bands or zones of mineralization. One band 40 feet thick assayed 2.5 per cent. copper; another, 13 feet thick, 2.85 per cent. copper; and the balance about 1.5 per cent. copper, with a little gold and silver. On account of the excess of iron in the ore, it proved so attractive to the smelter that Mr. Hedley has been offered smelting rates practically free of charge. Mr. Hedley hoped to be able to ship several hundred tons before the close of the year, but it is not known whether he succeeded in doing so.

Skeena Mining Division.

The most important development in this division and on the coast has been the progress made at Granby bay, on Alice arm of Observatory inlet, by the Granby Consolidated Company in equipping its Hidden Creek mines with a mining and smelting plant capable of treating 2,000 tons of ore a day.