

MINES AND MINING

Silver-Lead District of the Slokan is Quiet.

CAUSE IS THE LABOR TROUBLE

Mr. Richard Marsh Gives His Impressions of the Boundary Creek Country—The London Consolidated and the Richelieu Properties—Other Notes.

Mr. James D. Sword, M. E., has just returned from the Slokan district, and in reply to queries put to him by a Miner reporter, stated that the whole of the silver-lead district of the Slokan is quieter now than it has been for four years. All the big mines are practically closed down, and but little work other than a small amount of development is being carried on. It is a great pity that an amicable arrangement cannot be arrived at between masters and men, so as to reestablish the yearly increasing activity of this district. As the outside public regard the mineral statistics of British Columbia as a criterion of its promise as a country for mining investment, the falling off of the production of silver and lead will cause a considerable shrinkage in the aggregate mineral production of the province and lessen the confidence of outside investors, who will not always investigate the cause, and will only look at the result. It was predicted, judging from the appearance of the larger mines of the Slokan, that the output for 1890 would largely exceed that of previous years, and that it would be probably double as great as last year. It would strike the observer as a strange fact that these mines, which, owing to the uniform richness of the ore, are better able to adopt the eight-hour system with the old rate of wages, than the mines of this and the Boundary Creek district, where the ores are so much lower in value, should be closed down, while the mines of the latter districts should be working at their full capacity. The mines, without an exception, never looked better than at the present moment, and as nothing but development work is being done they should be in a position to produce an enormous quantity of silver-lead immediately they commence active operation. The Slokan Star mine, which at one time was the largest ore producer in the district, now promises to regain its supremacy, as the development has disclosed large bodies of ore. The Ivanhoe should come to the front very shortly as a big producer, which will be as soon as they commence shipping in earnest. On the Ruth the 100-ton concentrator, aerial tramway and a seven-drill compressor plant have been erected and are ready to run. The Noble Five development is rapidly proving that the large concentrating mill, although built prematurely, will have all the ore it can handle before long. The foregoing mines, together with the Payne, Last Chance, Idaho, Monitor, Reo, Whitewater Deep and several others, which are all dividend payers and now merely doing a small amount of development work are ready to jump into the front as producers as soon as a settlement has been reached between the two parties at issue in the labor trouble.

THE BOUNDARY COUNTRY.

Mr. R. Marsh Says It is Enjoying a Period of Prosperity. Mr. Richard Marsh, the well known assayer, has returned from a trip through the Boundary Creek country, and Thursday gave the Miner his impressions as follows: "It struck me that the entire Boundary Creek country is remarkably prosperous. The business men are all doing well, and in short, everybody is making money. The railroad has been graded to a large number of mines in the various camps, and I was told that the laying of steel from Eholt to the Summit camp and Phoenix commenced yesterday. A number of the mines have large dumps of ore, which they intend to commence shipping from just as soon as the track is in condition to be freighted over." In relation to the towns, he said that the mining section covers such a large area that a number of prosperous mining camps are springing up at various points, and some of these are certain to become important centers in the immediate future. The demand for building material considerably exceeds the supply. This is so much the case that the sawmills are being run night and day. "The ledge there, as a rule, are large and well filled with ore. The smelting industry promises to be important, as the amount of ore already in sight appears to justify the erection of large plants. Smelters are being erected at Grand Forks and at Greenwood. The one at Grand Forks and at the start is to have a capacity of 500 tons per day, and the one at Greenwood of 300 tons per diem. The general character of the ore is such that it can be cheaply smelted, and it carries good values in copper and gold and some silver. "The population of the Boundary Creek country is largely made up of ex-Rosslanders, and one can find hundreds of them there. All of the old-time Rosslanders are taking an active part in the development of the country, and many of them cannot fail to make money through the natural increase in mining and real estate values that will take place in the next few years, and some of them are certain to make large fortunes."

HAVE BLANKET LEDGES.

Mr. Henry Roy Tells of the Richelieu and London Consolidated. Mr. Henry Roy returned a day or two since from an inspection of the properties of the London Consolidated and Richelieu mining companies, of which he is superintendent. These properties are situated on Canyon Creek, a tributary of Crawford Creek, 12 miles east of Pilot Bay. The London company has six claims, and the ledge is traceable for a distance of 6,000 feet. The ore carries gold, silver, copper and lead. The property has been developed by a system of tunnels and crosscuts. The ledge is of the blanket type. That is, it lies almost flat instead of pitching. Mr. Roy reports that cross-cutting is in progress and that 26 men are at work. The work of getting in supplies is now in progress, and the intention is to carry on operations all winter. On the Richelieu the work of crosscutting the ledge from a system of tunnels is in progress. There are 17 men at work on this property, and the showing of ore is excellent. It is thought that both these properties will commence shipping next year.

Work in the Giant to Be Pushed.

The new owners of the control of the Giant Mining company are expected here on Sunday. It is said the party will include Senator George Turner, Colonel W. W. D. Turner, Colonel W. M. Ridpath and others. The purpose of the visit is to examine the property in conjunction with Mr. Nick Tregear, so as to formulate a plan for working it. It is understood that those in control will lose no time in developing the property to the end that it may be made productive as soon as possible.

Referendum Company Elect Officers.

At a meeting of the Referendum Mining company, held Friday in this city, the following officers were re-elected: Mr. C. N. Cunliffe, president; Mr. E. M. Kinney, vice-president; Mr. E. N. Oumette, secretary-treasurer. These with Messrs. Antoine Zettler and Nick Duffer constitute the board of directors.

WORK TO BE RESUMED

Operations on the Evening Star to be Recommended.

H. E. D. MERRY'S TRIP TO ATLIN

A Section Which Has Received Considerable of a Setback Through the Enforcement of the Alien Law—The Quartz Mines—Juncos and Wrangle.

Mr. Jerome L. Drumheller of the Evening Star Mining company, is in the city, and when seen Friday by a Miner reporter he stated that work would be resumed on the property of the company today with a full force of men. He also stated that the shipping of ore would be recommended. A drift will be run from the lower tunnel so as to tap the big ledge from which the ore has been shipped of late. It will tap the ledge at a depth of 150 feet from the surface and it is thought it will be reached by driving a crosscut less than 50 feet. The big ledge, which it is the intention to tap, is 50 feet wide and all the ore in it is of shipping value. This will give enough ground to stope out of for fully a year, as the big chute on the surface is known to be over 100 feet in length and may be much longer. Although the work will be carried on in an economical manner it is expected in the near future that a larger force than ever will be employed. So far this year the Evening Star has shipped 1,088 tons of ore, nearly all of which was extracted from the surface openings on the big ledge. A Trip to Atlin. Mr. H. E. D. Merry, mining engineer for the British America corporation, arrived in town Friday from a trip to Atlin and other points to the north, whither he went for the purpose of examining mining properties. In speaking of his trip yesterday he said: "The Atlin district has, up to the present time, been purely a placer mining camp and the production has been fairly good. The claims, in most instances, being only 100 feet square, have not given the miners much chance, and this was especially the case where they had to go very deep to bedrock, when it was hard to take out gold at a profit. The alien law has had a very bad effect on that country and has retarded the opening of it up to a considerable degree. Atlin, which had every chance of being a large and booming town had not the alien act been passed into force, would now have had to wait a long time to recover from the dampening effects of the legislation alluded to. "Lately the prospectors in that section have been turning their attention to quartz properties and a number of locations have been made. The lode mining industry, however, is yet in its infancy. As a matter of fact little or no development work has been done. One contract has been let for a prospecting tunnel to be run on the Anaconda group there. This tunnel is to be 200 feet in length and has just been commenced when I left. There must be much more development work done on the lode properties before anything definite can be told about the country. The quartz carries gold and a little silver and copper. The ore seems to be of the free milling and concentrating order. The country rock is composed chiefly of serpentine of different varieties. "Atlin is easy of access in the summer from about June till along about the middle of October. The White Pass & Yukon railway takes the voyager to Bennett from Skagway. Then steamboat from there to Taku arm, and then a walk of two miles to Taku city and another steamboat to Atlin, a distance of about six miles. The journey from Skagway to Atlin occupies about a day and a half in time. "Bennett is a distributing point for all that country—Dawson, Atlin and other points. The White Pass & Yukon railway, however, is able to handle the freight much more rapidly than the steamboats can and as a result there are about 4,000 and 5,000 tons awaiting delivery at Bennett. Navigation from Bennett is closed for the season. "I visited the mines of the Alaska-Treadwell company at Douglas Island, opposite Juneau. Here is a sight which repays one for the hardships of the trip. The ore is simply quarried out and every thing taken to the mill is passed through a mill. The company has 880 stamps at work on ore from this mine and its other properties on the island. Five hundred and forty stamps are dropping night and day on ore from the main mine. The company is paying big prices for the apparently enough ore in sight to last for years. The mill is a wet crushing one and is provided with stamps and true vanners. The latter save about two per cent of concentrates, which are smelted at Tacoma, and which run about \$80 to the ton. I was informed that about 85 per cent of the total value of the ore mined was saved on the plates and in concentrates. The ore runs between \$2.80 and \$3 to the ton. Most of the money earned by the men working in the mines and mills is spent in Juneau, which is just across the bay from the mines, which must be a very good thing for Juneau. This city also derives considerable support from the Silver Bow Basin mines. "Wrangle is another point at which the steamship called. It is apparently very quiet, nothing much being done there. "Vancouver seems to be going ahead rapidly, and as a commercial town it appears to be taking the lead of its competitors. If Vancouver and Victoria would only put in a couple of safe and commodious steamboats on the Alaska route they could secure a much larger share of the traffic than they enjoy at present. A matter of considerable importance is the more commodious and better accommodations than the Canadian. The American boats employ a captain and two pilots, who attend to the navigation of the steamers, whereas the boats sailing from Victoria have only a captain, and the chief mate to take a watch, and the chief mate consequently much overworked and suffer considerably from want of sleep. The boats, too, are very inferior and afford but little comfort and no luxuries to the passengers. 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Alderman Lalonde Tells of What He Saw in the Boundary.

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Alderman Lalonde returned on Thursday evening from a visit to the Boundary Creek country. This was his first visit to that section and while he had been reading and getting a whole lot of information concerning that country during the past four years he had no idea of the immense deposits and importance of the mines there. He left here on Monday last and arrived at Greenwood on the same evening and says the journey is a delightful one, the scenery being grand. This was particularly the case with the view of the Kettle river valley as seen from a point between Columbia and Grand Forks. On arrival in Greenwood the traveler is agreeably surprised to see so beautiful a town, where business seems to be so very active. What struck him was the extensive public improvements that have been made there. These cost much less than similar work would here because the town is so level there and so hilly here. A good class of buildings are being erected all over the town. Grand Forks also impressed me very favorably. "On Tuesday in company with Mr. Richard Marsh of this city, we went to Phoenix to examine the mines and the different townships. The Stenwinder and Brooklyn, which are owned by Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann, were inspected so far as the surface is concerned. We were told that these mines are being developed for the purpose of making silver and extensive shipments just as soon as the railway is completed into that camp. Then we crossed the gulch to the Old Ironsides and Knob Hill. These mines are only a quarter of a mile from the Brooklyn and Stenwinder. They have large ore dumps and are ready to ship as soon as the railway affords them transportation facilities. The largest mess house and bunk house in British Columbia has been put up for the accommodation of the employees at the Knob Hill and Ironsides. It is a building which is twice as large as the big school house of this city and will furnish accommodation for a large number of men. "The Snowshoe, Brandon & Golden Crown and Whangp were next visited. I examined these mines also as Mr. Marsh left me at the Old Ironsides. The railroad graders have opened up large deposits on each of these three properties. Considerable ore is already piled on the sides of the cuts ready to be sent to the smelter. "The next day I visited the Summit camp. Here I examined the Oro Denoro. I saw the place where the cutting made by the railway graders had opened up a large body of very high-grade copper ore. Mr. Dave O'Neil, in charge of the Oro Denoro, had a force of men engaged in further proving the width of the deposit. The Oro Denoro certainly has all the earmarks of the makings of a good mine. A short distance from the Oro Denoro is the B. C., which is certainly a wonderful mine. There I saw the two large ore dumps already mentioned in the Miner, and there are a number of thousands of tons in them. Mr. James Scrafton, who formerly was in charge of the Corey and Gerude in this camp, is superintendent of this property and is making all preparations to ship just as soon as the spur, which was started the day before yesterday, reaches the B. C. mine. The grading is finished and the laying of the steel has commenced on that particular branch. It is thought that the B. C. mine alone will be able to keep the railroad busy for quite a while with what they have on the dumps and that which they are able to put out daily. Mr. Watson has just commenced sinking on his contract on the B. C. He is to deepen the shaft from the 200-foot level. "I greatly enjoyed the trip and everywhere that I went I encountered ex-Rosslanders and felt as much at home as certainly I was in this city. The country is certainly being well provided with transportation facilities by the railway company. I am greatly pleased with the result of my trip, as I gathered a great deal of information concerning the country and its rich mines. I am unbiased as to these properties as unfortunately I do not own a single share in any of the mines which I have mentioned."

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WORK ON THE People. HAVE A BOND ON THE People. They are going to do some thing and promise to do the by the Minority Shareholders East Kootenay. Colonel W. M. Ridpath and Saunders of the old Le Roy in the city. They, together with George Turner, have secured for six months on 1,270,000 for a total of 2,000,000. This attests the control of the property held by Mr. A. D. Colclough. Colonel Ridpath and others examined the Giant. It seemed to be much pleased with the result of their examination. While they were there, Tregear, who has been placed in charge of the operations on the in a couple of shots and about four tons of ore, considerable copper. The point where the shaft was apparently about 10 feet in depth where this discovery is 30 feet to the north of the ledge can be traced to a depth of over 300 feet. This find since Mr. Tregear took charge which carries white ore is four feet in width has been sampled some of the ore is cut and got an assay of \$90 in gold and silver. In this have been found on the property. In telling about the intensions Colonel Ridpath and Turner, Mr. Saunders and others, a bond and no one else in the property will tend to do some legitimate development work. A small or seven men will be worked weeks and these will when there is need for the work has made some progress that a three-drill company installed. As to the miners we have no intention of freeing them out. We think what is right with them. A reorganization, it is thought of. We have secured a bond and intend to carry on operations through the winter. The matter, if it comes up at all, for it is future consideration we will have our own developing the mine. Colonel Ridpath and leave for Spokane today, occasionally for the purpose of following the development work. East Kootenay to the Mr. Thomas C. Gray of the syndicate, has just returned through East Kootenay. His mining is lively there, and of the Kootenays on the of no small importance. J. certain, he thinks, to have before a great while, and he will stay a long time at it is a great deal of development progress there, and some results are being attained. Line, which it is supposed chased by Fraser & Chalmers at work, and a winter camp put in, and the evident to carry on operations through weather. This property is in Windermere division. A Mr. Moore recently commenced operation in the Fort Steele district. Harrington is the superintendent. Operations will be kept up all Moore of the Trail smelter, to work on a group on the section. In short, the mining is going on in that section, and it is certain that the result will be that the output amount to something during year. Work on the Paris. Mr. J. W. Witherop has S. H. McCoy and force of men upon the Paris Belle. For the work will be confined to prospecting. From St. Paul north of Columbia avenue, been traced a distance of a and it is strong for the end. It carries some fine looking says \$16 to the ton. There five leads on the property tion is to locate the strong lead and then to explore it means of a shaft, crosscut. The work will be kept up and Messrs. Witherop are confident that the Paris Belle developed into a mine. A Find on the M. A gentleman came in from yesterday and reported that of six feet of ore had been discovered. It was made a Mystery group. It was made a portion of the claim, and into the side of the mountain way that a tunnel can tap of about 700 feet. The ore is of a fine quality. The management believe that the find is one of ordinary importance, as the value of the ore solid and app good grade. Noble Five to Be Reo The Noble Five Consolidated Milling company (Foreman) is out of existence at the next of the shareholders of the meeting is to be held at 14th instant. The Dunsmuir rolling interest in the share party and they intend to do of the assets of the company company act to be organized by the new company will be value. The Annual Report Mr. John B. Hastings, of the West Eagle Consolidated, got in late Saturday night