

## Items of Interest

The news from the Atlin and Klondike districts is still extremely conflicting.

We understand that the owners of the Dorothy Morton have purchased the adjoining property.

The C. P. R. cement mills have been leased by a syndicate, who will immediately reconstruct so as to increase the output.

Hall mines smelter returns for the four weeks ending January 27th, 1899: 22 days and 6 hours' smelting, 2,727 tons of ore, yielding 69 tons of copper and 39,250 ounces silver.

We congratulate the Van Anda Company on their determination to erect a 50-ton smelter on their property at Texada Island, and we hope that in the near future developments will necessitate their enlarging to a 500 per diem capacity. Considering the mineralized area this should be easily realizable.

Messrs. Gooderham & Blackstock passed through Vancouver to Victoria. They are on their way to the War Eagle mine, Rossland, which, together with the Centre Star, they are connecting with.

The War Eagle has shipped during the past six months some 32,000 tons of ore to the Trail smelter.

The belief is general in Winnipeg and amongst the officials of the C. P. R. in the east that the 1,000 ton smelter shortly to be erected by the C. P. R. will be located at Cascades. When constructed the new smelter will be utilized more particularly in the treatment of Boundary, Christina Lake and Burnt Basin ores.

We heartily endorse the remarks of the "Lillooet Prospector" in its reference to the Lytton-Lillooet wagon road. The late Government spent some \$20,000 in opening up this road to the big slide, and we should like to see the present executive include sufficient in the estimates to finish this important connecting link between these two points without delay. Lillooet then will be comparatively easy of access and the Government the gainer.

### DRAINING A LAKE FOR GOLD.

Advices to the Seattle (Wash.) "Post-Intelligencer" from Sitka, state that Gold Lake, in Pande Basin, was successfully emptied of the greater portion of its water on January 5th. Many spectators witnessed the curious sight of draining a lake by means of a tunnel 300 feet long through a mountain spur. The immense volume of water carried everything before it as it tore down the mountain side, moving great rocks as though they were blocks of wood. The ice broke when the supporting water receded, and it fell with a tremendous crash and splash. The escaping water ran down the ravine through which the small creek, the natural outlet of Gold Lake, runs, and

plunged over the ice of a second lake below. The weight of water broke the ice with a thunderous noise, and threw it around in great masses. Gold Lake fell sixty-one feet, to the tunnel level, and a volume of fresh water sixty-one feet deep, 3,000 feet long and 2,000 feet broad, escaped into the ocean. It reminded the spectators of the Johnstown flood. The gravel exposed by the drainage is said to run from \$2 to \$20 to the ton.

### MINING LAWS.

The mining laws of British Columbia are on the whole very good, but there are some ways in which they must be improved. For instance there is no reason why a man should have a license to hold mining land or work in a mine any more than to holding farming land or work on a farm. The present Government are about to take a step in the right direction in abolishing the license as far as it relates to workers in mines, but while this is a great boon to the mining community, it does not touch the most important class, the prospectors.

If the tax weighs hard on men receiving \$2.50 a day how much more heavily must it weigh on the prospector who, at the cost of many years of anxiety and often semi-starvation, and at the risk of his life, is exploring the unknown fastnesses of this great land, with the probability before him that others will reap the fruit of his labors. Very few prospectors make anything worth their while. In another way an amendment is required. Most of the claims staked in this country are staked by men who are not prospectors for men who do not intend to work them. Sometimes a man will in this way stake 20 claims for \$10 or so, and the valuable land of the country is locked up. The only way in which this could be prevented is by making claim-owners do the assessment work soon after staking. This would work some hardship, much of which might be prevented by giving the gold commissioner power to lay over claims difficult of access. It would increase the value of claims, as it would take so many cheap ones out of the market. Some step is certainly needed to correct this abuse.—G. F. Monckton, M. Fed. Inst., M. E., in Kamloops Mining Record.

### CONTERNATION AT SKAGWAY.

The special correspondent of the "Times," writing from Skagway, under date of January 26th, says: "The Cutch, Danube, Dirigo and City of Seattle all arrived here this morning, about the same time bringing the first word of the actual passing of the new amendment to the Placer Mining Act. It is hard to make the residents believe that such is the case, as it was considered that the amendment was only 'talk,' but, as it is now dawning on their minds it is creating quite a consternation. Retaliation is spoken of, and it is more than likely a mass meeting will take place at an early date to protest against the Bill, and ask the United States Government to retaliate by stopping the landing of British subjects at Skagway, Dyea, Juneau, etc. How this can be accomplished without

interfering with International law is not the subject of the hour, but it is proposed to send a representative to air these views and press this retaliation at Washington at once. The gentleman spoken of who will make this representation is ex-Judge Price."

### A MOUNTAIN OF ORE.

A Mrs. Treat, whose husband is manager of a mine on Texada Island, in British Columbia, was strolling two miles from the camp, recently, when she picked up some rich-looking rock, and, following up the discovery, she found a vein twenty feet wide, running right through the mountain, of high-grade gold and copper quartz. Experts were sent out, and they pronounce it the biggest strike ever made up the Coast. There are thousands of tons of ore, averaging \$20 a ton, in sight. One piece, weighing five tons, was taken out and will be sent to the Paris Exposition, as in gold and copper it runs \$50 to the ton. Mrs. Treat's discovery is, it is stated, simply a mountain of very rich ore. A large force of men is now developing the mine. The discovery caused great excitement in local mining circles.—"North West Magazine."

### FROM THE YUKON COUNTRY.

The following is a letter sent from a gentleman well known in Vancouver and who is the owner of several claims known to be good, though from the letter one would not think so: "I have just returned from a trip to one of the outlying camps. There has been a good deal of sickness here this winter, with many deaths from fever and scurvy, and generally a funeral every day. Money now is very scarce here, and everyone is complaining of hard times. Some of the creeks that were supposed to be going to turn out a good deal of gold are not coming to the front in the way they were expected to. It is of course very hard yet to make an estimate. They are working Eldorado and Bonanza, Hunker, Dominion and Sulphur, and almost every creek in the country. But there is no enthusiasm such as we thought of. Possibly people are keeping dark about their prospects on account of the royalty, thinking that it may be repealed. I guess most of the people here are disappointed with their expectations so far. I had several interests that are being worked and I hope that I will make enough out of them that I will not be compelled to walk out in the summer. So far it is only hope. This has been a mild winter so far, and a thaw that we had a week ago stopped work on almost all the claims, and even yet the weather has not resumed its ordinary severity. We go about town with our ears uncovered, and we rub them occasionally, but one does not need mitts to go half a mile and back. But when we go out to the creek we have the same warm clothing that we would wear if it were cold weather. I don't think I will stand this another year, but will go out in the spring; make a break; life is too short to spend it in misery, and I am in misery living like this, away from home, and not one word from the people for months at a time."