

air pipe lines are being laid from the new building to the different workings. One ten-inch pipe has been laid to the Aetna shaft, a distance of some 1,000 feet, from which the main workings of the Old Ironsides and Victoria mines will be supplied with compressed air. Pipes are also being laid to the Knob Hill, so that air can be had both above and below ground at that property.

ELECTRIC PLANT AT HEDLEY.

Mr. Rogers, the manager of the Nickel Plate mine at Camp Hedley, has effected arrangements for the installation of an electric plant for lighting the town of Hedley, the concentrating mill and the underground workings. The cost of this plant is said to be \$100,000.

THE METAL MARKET.

NEW YORK metal market conditions at the end of May are thus summed up by the *Engineering and Mining Journal*:

"The metal markets generally have been rather quiet. While business has not been heavy for early deliveries, consumption continues large in all directions, and there are signs of greater activity in the near future.

"Transactions in copper have not been heavy, but consumers are showing more interest in the market and it is beyond question that they will be soon looking for supplies. At any rate, metal is not being pressed for sale, producers generally holding back in the expectation that higher prices will prevail. Most producers are sold up to July at least, and, as we have recently shown, there are no considerable stocks available. In the meantime, the market is practically made by sales of moderate quantities which are needed for immediate consumption. It should be, of course, understood that the market is necessarily made, not by what producers ask for futures, but by the prices actually paid on such sales as make up the daily business.

"Tin has been less active and somewhat weaker. The large spot stocks which have been pressed on the market are being gradually worked off, and buyers have shown some disposition to speculate a little for the future.

"Lead continues quiet and unchanged, with the usual large consumption. The prices of this material are now so regulated that consumers have no special motive in buying ahead of their requirements, and there is nothing beyond the regular daily business.

"Spelter continues strong with but little change in prices. Consumption is on a very good basis, and producers have no stocks ahead. Zinc ore continues high. Prices this week range from \$35 to \$37 per ton of 60 per cent. ore. Some extra quality ore in the Joplin market sold at \$40 per ton. Production is somewhat lighter than last year.

"Silver continues to show a fairly high range of values under the influence of coinage purchases here and abroad. Demand for the East continues rather light. The discussion of the proposed changes in the monetary system of Mexico continues, and it is the general belief that the country will in time adopt the gold standard, but progress in that direction is necessarily slow."

The latest quotations are: Lake copper, 14½ to 14¾; electrolytic in cakes, wirebars and ingots, 14¾ to 14½; cathodes, 14½ to 14¾; casting copper, 14.

Lead, 4.17½ to 4.27½. St. Louis; 4.30 to 4.35. New York.

Silver, 54¾ to 54¾.

Spelter, 5.50, St. Louis; 5.65, New York.

COAL EXPORTATIONS AND TRADE.

THE production of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company was divided as follows:—

	Tons.
Morrissey	12,000
Coal Creek	16,000
Michell	20,037
Total	48,037

This monthly output has been exceeded only once in the history of the company, the highest record being in January, 1903, when 54,600 tons were mined.

The *Fernie Free Press* gives the following account of recent improvements at the Morrissey mine:—

At Morrissey mines extensive improvements are in progress. A large steam double compound air compressor is being installed which will supply motive power to all the mines for drilling and hoist purposes, where it is unsafe to use other power. The air is conveyed to each of the mines in six-inch pipes at a pressure of 100 lbs. to the inch. The engine is a very powerful one with a capacity of 17,000 cubic feet per minute and it weighs 37,000 pounds.

No. 2 tunnel is being rapidly developed and made ready for a double track. It is estimated that the remaining 240 feet of development will be completed by August 1st, when the mine will be in a position to ship coal.

A large double endless rope haulage rope engine is being put in to operate the switching in the yards above the incline at Morrissey mines. The yards here are 800 feet long and contain four tracks. The yard work was formerly done by the locomotive, and the new system will relieve the latter of such work as feeding the coal bins and taking away the empty cars.

A 50,000 gallon tank is being built above the mines as a reserve for boilers or any other urgent necessity in case the regular pipe system should for any reason refuse to work. Important improvements are also contemplated in the water system. The present six-inch main pipes will be replaced by ten-inch or probably with twelve-inch pipes and the present pipes will be used for distributing purposes. The system will be extended to the new town of Morrissey mines at an early date.

A large fan similar to that recently put in at No. 4 has just been installed at No. 1 mine and another will shortly be put in at Nos. 2 and 3 mines. These fans are very large and have a tremendous capacity.

The coke ovens at Morrissey are now under way and they are contracted to be finished by October 1st. Many will be ready for use before that date.

Under the steady improvements going on at Morrissey Mines it is expected that the daily output will reach 1,000 tons by the middle of the month.

On the Coast, a fairly satisfactory output continues to be made from the Nanaimo collieries. But at Extension operations are still suspended and at Cumberland the situation is also unsatisfactory, the work at the mines there being carried on to a limited extent by the employment of chiefly Oriental labour. Meanwhile, fuel is being brought in for the local market from Washington, the C. P. R. Pacific liners are coaling in Japan, and exportations to the San Francisco market have practically ceased.

We extract the following information from the *Fernie Free Press*:—

"The work at the coke ovens at Fernie is now progressing more steadily. The Slav oven-workers who quit the work some time ago have to a large extent been replaced by 80 Chinamen who arrived on Monday morning from Vancouver. The company had for a time taken a body of Italians from important development work to keep the ovens working, until regular men could be supplied. The union had been asked to supply men and it had been powerless to meet the demand, and the only way left to the company was the method adopted. These Chinamen are experienced coke-oven workers. The output of coke is steadily increasing and more ovens are being started at frequent intervals. Many of the Slavs who quit the coke ovens are working on the construction at Frank where high wages are being paid.

"At Morrissey the new compressor was put in operation on Wednesday. This huge engine now supplies all the motive power in the mines for drilling and hoist purposes. The air is conveyed into the mines in five-inch pipes at a pressure of 100 inches to the foot. It is giving splendid satisfaction."