

pending. All sorts of improvement are in progress or decided upon, and even a theatre is amongst the latest projects of the thriving little capital of the new gold region. But too much of a boom is bad. We, in Toronto, know it. The growth and increased wealth of the magnificent south-western peninsula of Ontario with its more than a million inhabitants, justified a large increase in the population and real estate values of Toronto. But the boom was overdone and the city has suffered the inevitable reaction, with the result that the men in Toronto who are naturally leaders in enterprise and could do the city great good under ordinary circumstances, have either lost all they had or are holding on to their property as best they can, instead of being able to aid in pushing healthy enterprises. Rat Portage will soon be a large town and even a city, but care should be taken not to make real estate higher than the population of the district surrounding Rat Portage justifies.

ON the 11th inst, the School of Practical Science began a six weeks special course for the instruction and training of prospectors and miners. The fee for the course is \$8.00. No doubt the course will be well attended, for the number of men actively engaged in prospecting and mining, or intending to so engage must be large.

MR. W. HAMILTON MERRITT, F.G.S., Associate of the Royal School of Mining is soon to issue a little volume on field tests. The work will be valuable to prospectors, miners and assayers. It will be well illustrated and will contain a glossary of geological and mining terms. The small size of the pages will make the work a convenient pocket volume, ready for reference to on the field and in camp, and we have no doubt will be appreciated by the many engaged in practical work on our mineral lands.

THE Dominion Parliament, it is thought, will at its next session pass an Act conferring large powers on mining companies. The issue at low values on the dollar of non-assessable stock will, it is said, be legalized or placed beyond question, in fact the new Dominion charters will be made as liberal as almost any in the world. The reason advanced for the supposition that such an Act will be passed, is that a large proportion of the members of Parliament are interested in mines as investors at least, and some of them as directors of mining companies.

THE *Buffalo Express* recently said "The Carnegie Steel Company is again charged with furnishing the Government with poor armor plate, and a commission of inquiry has been ordered. If convicted this time the Carnegie Company should not be permitted to get off so easily as it did before." The charge should be thoroughly investigated. The offence charged is one which not only defrauds the country but, directly and indirectly, may endanger life and property in unusual measure. The previous failure to turn out nickel steel plate equal to the sample successfully tested, has depreciated the value of such armor over the whole world, and other nations are pausing to see the results in the United States before extensively adopting the plates themselves. Why does not the United States Government make its own armor plate? The cost may be greater than at present, but it may be better to incur that cost than to trust to manufacturers whose aim is to make as much money as possible out of Government contracts.

A DEVELOPMENT COMPANY DIVIDEND.

MINE development companies are novelties in Canada; we know of but one in existence before last summer. Within the past two months several have been formed in Ontario. The oldest company, the Golden Gate Mining and Development Company, is just a year old. It has been well managed by Mr. R. H. Ahn, of Rat Portage, and has now declared a dividend of 50 per cent. Mr. Ahn's view of the situation is that Canada has not enough money to spare for the full development of our mines. To pour too much money from our eastern parts of the Dominion into our central and western gold fields is not altogether to the good of the country. There is enough here, however, to secure sufficient development of prospects to justify the investment of the capital necessary for mining on a large scale. The money for extensive mining must come from countries that have considerable surplus for investment. The Golden Gate Company has attracted a very considerable amount of that capital by the work it has done, and will proceed immediately with development work on one or more properties to be placed on the London market in the spring.

PERSONAL.

MR. KENDAL, who is one of the pioneer settlers of the Lake of the Woods district, was recently in the city for a few days. He says the prospects for the coming season in his district are very bright. Mr. Kendal was one of the owners of the Cornucopia mine that is proving to be a remarkably rich property.

MESSRS. SAWYER, MURPHY & Co., mining brokers, 43 King street east, are enjoying a rapidly increasing business. They now occupy the largest suite of brokerage offices in the city.

NUGGETS.

GOLD talk has affected the small boy and his thoughts revert to it on slight provocation. A lady who felt drowsy in church the other Sunday, had occasion to open her mouth wide and a small boy setting beside his father, whispered the remark: "Pa, that lady has got a gold mine in her mouth. I wonder how much she would sell for."

THE other day, amongst a group of mining men discussing Lake of the Woods mines and prospects, so many of which are held by individual owners, was noticed a man with an unusual limp and a correspondingly painful expression on his face. "Have you got a corn?" was asked of the mine-interested limper, whose mining speculations on prospects had not been the brightest. "A corn!" replied he, then realizing, as he moved his foot: "A corn! Well, yes; but I wish I had a Cornucopia."

EVERY newsboy around the streets discusses the gold question. Queer ideas some of the urchins have. Two newsboys were overheard discussing how they could form a mining company, and one of them proposed the following plan; "I'll tell you," said he. "Get a five dollar gold piece. Grind it up to powder. Then take it down to Scarborough Heights and spill it over some rocks. Then pick up a piece of the rocks and get it assayed—be sure to keep it a dead secret where you found it—then somebody will come along and offer to put up money to develop the ground. Then you can get the mayor or some of the aldermen to become president and float it for more-n-a-million," "S'pose the president would catch on?" "Oh, there's no fear; he doesn't know any more about it than you do, nor half so much."

BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS.

Rossland and Trail Creek.

"THERE are," says the British Columbia *Mining Record*, "fourteen mines at Rossland which may be termed shippers, and this number will probably be increased to twenty or more during the season of 1897. Mr. Wm. A. Carlyle, in his report on Trail Creek, made mention of the following:

Le Roi	California
War Eagle	Nickel Plate
Iron Mask	City of Spokane
Virginia	Georgia
Poorman	Red Mountain
Centre Star	Cliff
Idaho	Jumbo
C. & C.	O.K.
Columbia & Kootenay	Great Western
Josie	Enterprise
Monte Christo	Evening Star
St. Elmo	Iron Horse
Mayflower	

"And on the South Belt near Rossland:

G. R. Sovereign	Lily May
Crown Point	Deer Park
R. E. Lee	Commander
Maid of Erin	Palo Alto
Homestake	San Joaquin

"Most of these were reported upon as in good condition and with considerable development work done. Fourteen, as already shown, are looked upon now as shippers, although some of the others might be placed in the same category. Since Mr. Carlyle's report other claims have come into prominence, of which we may mention the following: Caledonia, Consolidated, Mugwump, Homestake, Nest Egg, Silverine. Of the forty mentioned we do not think that we are going too far in saying that half the number will be shipping ore in 1897."

A YEAR'S RETROSPECT.

The Rossland *Miner*, in the course of a review of the past year, says:—

Turning to the past year we find that the camp has nothing to be ashamed of in its record. Owing to inadequate transportation facilities the output of the camp was comparatively light until within the past few months, and even now the second railroad has only begun to take ore away. Despite this fact, we find that at the end of 1896 nearly 40,000 tons of ore have been marketed as follows:—Le Roi, 27,665 tons; War Eagle, 10,000 tons; Iron Mask, 705 tons; Poorman, 340 tons; Josie, 574 tons; Crown Point, 150 tons; Mayflower, 100 tons; Cliff, 75 tons; Evening Star, 25 tons, and other smaller shipments amounting to about 50 tons. The average value of the ore per ton was close up to \$40. At \$35 per ton it makes the production for the year worth \$1,400,000.

At the present time, and for the past two months the shipments of ore have averaged a little better than 200 tons per day, the only means of transportation being the narrow gauge line of the Columbia and Western Railway. Were this average maintained throughout the year it would reach a total of 70,000 tons in 1897. We are well satisfied, however, that this average will be greatly exceeded. In our opinion, after a careful survey of the field, it will exceed 300 tons per day, and may even reach 600 to 700 tons. The production for 1897 is not likely to fall below 100,000 tons of the value of \$3,500,000.

A TRAIL CREEK SMELTER.

Says a writer in The London, (Eng.) *Mining Journal*: I dare say many of your readers are amused at the way in which from time to time I lecture you capitalists and investors. But the laugh is on my side, after all. Week by