

SURF INLET GOLD MINE

"The Province", Vancouver, printed the following in its issue of Jan 1:

With the payment of \$150,000 to the Surf Inlet Company of this city by the Tonopah-Belmont Company of Philadelphia, ownership in one of the great gold mines of the province passed from Vancouver hands to mining men from across the line. Mr. Fred M. Wells, the mining engineer who first realized the potential possibilities of the Surf Inlet as a gold producer, and who put in four years of his life developing the property before it was taken over by the Philadelphia company, is in the city to-day. He states that while he will participate in the first payment along with the other large stockholders in The Surf Inlet Company, he likes the clause which allows the original company a one fifth interest in the property, irrespective of the sale.

The option which the Tonopah-Belmont Company held expired to-day but the cash payment of \$150,000 was paid to-day, guaranteeing to the public the real success of the enterprise.

The camp was first developed by Victoria men and although they sold out at an early date and probably without reaping the fullest reward for such pioneer work, still it will give them satisfaction to know that through their efforts a gold camp of great promise has resulted.

Closely following the Victoria men's operations, Mr. E. A. Cleveland of this city became interested and made a serious and well-directed effort to develop what is now the Surf Inlet mine, but through the failure of adjacent properties the camp was given such a black eye that it became impossible to secure necessary capital and operations on his property were also closed. While it has been a long wait for Mr. Cleveland, the results of his early mining venture have been very profitable, for aside from the good cash figure which he has already received, he is one of the heaviest holders of shares in the present Surf Inlet Company.

During the early development of the camp the ore was mined and packed to salt water on horses and shipped to the smelter for treatment. Although the ore contained good gold values the cost of handling was so great that it resulted in a loss and discouragement and finally closing down the works.

After lying idle for several years the camp was brought to the attention of Fred M. Wells and A. B. Clabon and resulted in Mr. Wells making a trip to the camp and thoroughly examining several of the properties. Mr. Wells was very favorably impressed with the possibilities of the mines and in the interest of himself and Mr. Clabon secured an option on the group, known as the "D. L. S." group and owned by Mr. E. A. Cleveland of the firm of Cleveland & Cameron of this city. With the object of developing the property a company was formed, composed of local Vancouver business men and known as the "Surf Inlet Gold Mines Limited."

The development of the mine was placed in the hands of Mr. Wells and during the following four years about \$100,000. was expended. The result of this work was to prove the ore to a depth of about 500 feet and a continuous length of several hundred feet along the vein, demonstrating its value and size to that depth.

Realizing the necessity of still further development and the building of a milling plant, involving large capital, the local company decided to be relieved of this responsibility and gave an option to the Tonopah Belmont Development Company of Philadelphia. This company is made up of a group of wealthy Philadelphia men with Mr. Clyde A. Heller as president. They own and operate some very large mines, including the noted Tonopah-Belmont mines

of Tonopah, Nev., and have been most conspicuous by their successful operations.

Work on the option began about May 1, 1914. The equipment at the mine necessary for the work consists of a power plant of two 50-horsepower boilers, a ten-drill compressor, an electric plant for lighting, blower for ventilation, small hoist, etc.

As the mine is 6 miles from salt water, roads had to be constructed, gasoline boats put on the lakes, besides the fine ocean-going power cruiser "Full Moon," purchased from Mr. Knox Walkem of this city, to assure communication at all times with the outside.

All operations at the mine were placed in the hands of Mr. F. W. Heller, mining engineer. A working force of about 50 men have been engaged up to date. A very complete set of buildings were erected, consisting of comfortable bunkhouses, cook and dining houses, powerhouse, blacksmith's shops, office building, assay office and cottages for men, forming in all quite a neat group of buildings, which, when brightly illuminated with electric lights, reminds one of some of the old-time gold mining days of other camps.

Up to the present the company has done about 6000 feet of development. While some work was done in the upper workings the greater part consisted of opening up a new level by a tunnel nearly 3000 feet in length, which cuts the ore body about 500 feet below the old workings, and nearly 1000 feet from the surface. The orebody was encountered on the low level in July, and since that time several hundred feet of ore has been developed, which, from its great size and high values will soon make the mine famous by its production of gold bullion.

Development work will continue on the mine, and a large mill will be built at once, together with development of a hydro-electric power plant for operation of mine and mill.

"While the Tonopah people are to be congratulated on the success of their first business undertaking in British Columbia," said Mr. Wells this morning, "we are glad to say the Vancouver owners who first developed the property hold an enviable place in the future of the mine, for besides the cash received, the Surf Inlet Company retain a fifth share in the future profits of the mine.

"The successful development of the Surf Inlet mine, solely by local business men, is a real object lesson for the people of this city to think about. Situated as we are in the centre of a great undeveloped mining country, there is no reason why a fair portion of the money available for new enterprises should not be devoted to the development of our own mines. Especially does this idea apply to the initial development of prospects. Like all other classes of business it is essential that experience and good judgment guide the operations."

The directors of the Surf Inlet Gold Mines Limited are Col. J. Duff-Stuart, president; E. A. Cleveland, vice-president; A. H. Wallbridge, treasurer; A. H. MacNeill, K.C., Jonathan Rogers, W. B. Burnett, M.D. and B. G. Hawkins, secretary.

MAXIM MUNITIONS.

New Haven, Jan. 21—Maxims Munitions Co. plant here will resume operations on Friday of this week. Installation of machinery from one of the company's plants in Derby occasioned the temporary cessation of work in the main plant here.

The corporation expects to receive a part of the big contract from the Russian Buying Commission for machine guns.

Engineers are making plans for the erection of a new building close by the main plant where company expects to turn out ammunition.