

tention and a considerable amount of surface work is being done, the best experts from Rossland having been encouraged by the excellent assays. The Tamarac group has just been bonded for \$60,000, and several other bonds are talked about, amongst other properties the Arlington, owned by the Boyd family, has just changed hands for a large sum; assays ran as high as \$74, I am told. The new town-site is Salmon. Three claims on McPhee Creek, between Toad Mountain and Waterloo, belonging to H. D. Braydon and partners, were recently bonded for \$30,000 to an English syndicate. At Montgomery, which, for the information of your readers, lies on the east bank of the Columbia River about five miles below Robson and about the same distance above Champion Creek, considerable development is still going on. On Apache Mountain, reached by a trail kept broken by the horses packing up supplies from the river, the Lillooet Company have a diamond drill prospecting the Apache group and on the Aaron group are sinking a shaft which is already down some eighty feet on the Aaron's Isle, and are running a tunnel to meet the shaft and are in about 150 feet. The Maud S. has the honour of being easily first with respect to assays, several samples having run as high as six and seven ounces in gold, with far higher results in samples where the free gold is visible. At Waterloo, which lies about two miles below Montgomery, the Ontario is a promising prospect; the tunnel is in fifty feet, and on the Little Jessie and neighbouring claims, some \$5,000 has been spent. More will be heard from these properties in a short time.

The surface showings on these hills and, in fact, on all the claims comprised in the district which forms a triangle and lies between Toad Mountain, McPhee Creek and the North Fork of the Salmon River, are very fine, and with more general development some really good strikes may be confidently looked for next spring.

The Dominion Government geologist, Mr. McConnell, made a careful examination of the rock formation of the Trail Creek district, and stated that the Rossland and Toad Mountain mineral belts almost meet near McPhee Creek, and he predicted a good future for this part of the camp, feeling convinced that the formation was one indicating values.

XAVIER.

#### *Kamloops Items.*

THE first claims were staked last July, and since that time about 150 have been recorded. The mineral belt lies about three miles southwest of Kamloops and extends about three miles south and five miles west so far as known. The ore is gold and copper, the average assays are about \$5 in gold and 30 per cent. copper, and the ore bodies are close to the surface. What is called the Guerin ledge was struck about six inches below the surface, and when uncovered showed seven feet of almost solid ore between the walls. This is only a fraction of a claim, and when down at a depth of about six feet, was sold to an English company, represented by Mr. James Coubledick, for \$13,000, and the adjoining claims, upon which no work has been done, are bonded for \$5,000 each. The Python, situated on the northeast corner of the belt, about one mile easterly of the Guerin lead, is down

about sixty feet with a shaft and has a fine showing—they expect to work all winter—owned by Messrs. Wood & Buchanan of this city. About half a mile westerly of the Guerin claim is the Iron Mask, owned by an Eastern Company, of which the Hon. N. Clarke Wallace is president. They have done considerable work and have an excellent showing. Another group is situated about three miles south of the Python, enough work has been done to show that they are all right. The Chieftain group lies about one and a half miles south of the Iron Mask, owned by myself, has a shaft down about twenty-five feet and is looking well. Mr. John Hepburn has a claim about one mile west of the Chieftain, showing free gold. In this same locality F. A. Kelly, George McDonald and Robert Lyons have a fine group of claims, from which they have had assays showing sixty per cent. copper, but not much work has been done on these claims. All the claims that have had any work done are very promising. The Flora H., joining the Python, owned by Bennman & Smith, has been bonded by some Everett parties, who will sink a shaft during the winter.

The mineral belt lies upon the bunch grass hills and is very easy to prospect, and the claims can be worked very economically. We have had quite a number of mining men here looking for investments, and next year promises to be a very active one in the camp.

I am sending you a sample of ore by this express.

P.S.—A Mr. Thynne, representing some Vancouver parties, is negotiating for a bond on a group of six claims west of the Chieftain. L.

#### *Dredging.*

I MUST say that for the past four or five years dredging has had a hard struggle to make a success, for many different reasons. Each and every company has always had some unforeseen accident arise, which caused either delay or non-success in the prospects, but always gained sufficient knowledge of the various deposits of gold in the river beds to induce them to continue the industry.

During the present year (1896) the large Young dredge, on the upper Fraser, at Quesnelle Mouth, has made a very fair test of their property dredging, and would have paid this year only for the breaking of their centrifugal pumps, which happened twice in succession, and, being so far away from any opportunity to renew them, the best of the season passed without being able to do much work. I learn from the manager that they had taken out a fair quantity of gold during the short time the machine was in working order.

I also learned at Quesnelle before returning here that the Alexander dredge, just below the mouth of Quesnelle river, was paying well, and during the time I was there the machine was working steadily.

The Underwood dredge, on Quesnelle river, built this year, is tied up at present. The intention of the company is to change the process and machinery to a Dipper Dredge. This I believe to be the final completion of dredging; that is to say, that it will never be a success until they all use the original Dipper Dredge. The gold is there, and there is only one question, and that is to take it out. It