

GENERAL PHOSPHATE CORPORATION.

Boodler Sando and Sir George Baden-Powell Retire from the Board—An Excerpt from the Directors' Report to be Presented at the Meeting of Shareholders.

The adjourned annual meeting of the General Phosphate Corporation, Limited, was held in London on 26th inst, and our next issue will contain an account of what took place. In anticipation of the meeting the directors issued a lengthy report, but owing to the accounts from Canada not having been received in time, only an approximate statement can be laid before the meeting. The accounts are to be audited immediately afterwards, the directors having thought it better to take this course rather than propose a further adjournment. "The directors much regret the absence of profits from which to declare a dividend." This result is attributed mainly to two causes—the present low selling price of phosphate, and the difficulties with which the directors have had to contend as regards the development and management of the Canadian properties. When the Company was formed the price of 80 per cent. phosphate delivered in this country was £5 3s. 4d. per ton, while now it has fallen to about £3. In regard to the second of the two causes mentioned, the administration of the Company's affairs in Canada was towards the end of last year placed in different hands. Mr. Alexander Benson was appointed manager and engineer at a salary of £300 a year, thus effecting a saving, while Mr. R. W. Shepherd, Jun., has been appointed general agent. The directors express their satisfaction at the fact that a charter has been obtained from the Canadian Parliament for the construction of a railway from a point near the Company's mines to Buckingham, where it will effect a junction with the main line of the Canadian Pacific. No progress has been made with the mining of mica on the Company's property. With regard to the actions that have been commenced by some of the shareholders for the removal of their names from the register, it is thought that a decision will be given by the courts within the next few weeks. "As regards the future policy of the Corporation the directors are in the hands of the shareholders. The directors think it would be much to be regretted if the work of developing and turning to account the Corporation's undoubtedly valuable properties were not continued, thereby losing the benefit of the money which has already been spent. This is one of the matters which they would be glad of the opportunity of discussing with a representative committee of shareholders. During the year the directors have lost the services of Sir Jacob Wilson and Sir George Baden-Powell, the first owing to his having received a Government appointment, and the latter owing to his engagement on the Behring Sea Commission. Professor Crookes and Mr. Sando have also resigned."

Stopping Back Water by Brick Dams.—An account is given by Mr. J. Niven* of the brick dams constructed at the Mirfield Moor pit for stopping back a heavy feeder of water. During the sinking of a pit a large amount of water came from the river through an open-jointed rock, and had to be tubbed out. Coal was met at a depth of 457 feet, or 110 feet below the ordnance datum; and on driving towards the river two up-throw faults raised the coal 70 feet. These were cut through by a stone drift rising 6 inches to the yard, and the workings continued to a distance of 300 yards from the pit bottom. It was then found that a very large amount of water was coming through a stratum of 2 inches of soft dirt below the coal, and flowing down to the pit, where it had to be pumped from a depth of 200 yards. Brick dams were accordingly put both in the intake and return drifts. The dam in the intake was 10½ feet wide by 7½ feet high, and six courses of bricks in thickness, with 1 inch of cement between each course. The dam in the return was somewhat smaller. The floor, roof and sides were cut back 18 inches, and a 6-foot length of arching was placed on the outside of the intake dam, as the roof was weak. In ten days the pressure rose to 108 pounds per square inch, but the dams have remained tight. The cost of the two dams was £70.

Kelly's Sectional Boiler.—The sectional boiler built by Messrs. P. J. Powers & Co., Ottawa, for the Kootenay & Columbia Prospecting & Mining Co., reached Kaslo 10th January and was packed into the Wellington Mine, and commenced work 5 days thereafter. The boiler in every way is a complete success, so much so that Driller Kelly, the inventor, has decided to have it patented in Canada and the United States. A second boiler with improvements in tubes, grate and firebox is now being built, and will be shipped to the Kootenay in March or April. Cuts of this boiler will appear in the March number of the REVIEW.

* Transactions of the Federated Institution of Mining Engineers, Vol. 111, pp. 132-138, one plate.

MINING NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

Ontario.

Algoma Nickel Mines.—The three mines of the Canadian Copper Company are still closed down pending the decision of the courts in Ohio as to certain matters in dispute between the company and Mr. S. J. Ritchie, their former managing director here.

Mr. S. S. Ryckman, M. P., of Hamilton, Ont., has lately secured options on many valuable nickel properties on the range, presumably for a syndicate of English and American capitalists who wish to get an interest in the nickel mines here.

On lot 6, con. 3, Graham, some very high grade cobalt ore was discovered last summer, and the work of further exploiting the property will be started as soon as the snow leaves in the spring. Mr. J. C. Ryan, of East Saginaw, is also organizing a company to work an adjoining claim in the same township.

Mr. Arthur Kitson, of Philadelphia, has purchased a nickel property in Denison, and operations are expected to be commenced soon. Quite a number of other locations are to be opened up this year, and with the growing demand for nickel we look for unprecedented activity and interest in mining here before the present season is over.

The Worthington mine, in the township of Drury, is being worked this winter on a fair scale. About fifty men are employed in it now. A chute of exceedingly rich ore has been disclosed in one of the shafts of this mine, not far from the surface, and carrying over 40% of nickel. This is the richest nickel ore ever found in the district, except at the Vermillion mine.

Some of the finest nickel properties in the District are in the townships of Denison and Graham, where the range "gets her back up," rising in many cases into tremendous hills and ridges of ore above the surface. But their development is retarded by the want of a customs smelter at which ores could be sold. All the companies having smelters here now work their own mines and there is no local market for ores. It is estimated that \$50,000 would build a custom smelter with a capacity of 100 tons a day, and such a needed enterprise, if properly managed, ought to pay well.

British Columbia.

Kaslo.

The stage line from Bonner's Ferry to Nelson, 65 miles, has been running since close of navigation. The fare is fixed at the moderate figure of \$10 per passenger.

Blacksmiths' coal at Kaslo can be purchased for \$80.00 per ton. (Ottawa Cartage Co. will please paste this in their hats.)

Two men were buried in a snow-slide at the Freddie Lee on January 3rd. The gang were working in the drift over which the slide passed. The mouth of the drift was blocked up for fifteen feet or so, and the miners had to dig their way out. Two whipsawyers making boards over a small pit had a miraculous escape, the slide being split by a rocky knoll sixty feet or so above them.

The Kootenay & Columbia Prospecting and Mining Company, and a Spokane syndicate each owning a half interest on the "Stanley," fifteen miles from Kaslo, intend commencing development work early in March.

Real estate has advanced from 300 to 500 per cent. in Kaslo since last spring. Corner lots in the business part of the town are stiff at \$3,500. Stores with plate glass fronts, and first-class hotels adorn the town. "Seven-up Teas" and "Progressive Poker Parties" are all the rage this winter.

Twenty tons of silver lead ores are being hauled into Kaslo daily, awaiting opening of navigation. It is estimated that at least \$500,000.00 worth of ore will be ready for spring shipment.

Miners' wages still continue at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per day and board. Provisions and horse feed are extremely high. Potatoes, \$7 per bag; pork, \$60; flour, \$20; fresh beef, 20 cents. Dealers are paying \$20 per ton at Nelson for ice.

Driving Levels in Hard Dolomite.—A level has been driven by hand in very hard dolomite in the Raibl mining district of Carinthia. V. Waltl gives details regarding the running of this drift. During eleven months 777½ eight-hour shifts were worked off, 2,411 bore-holes were drilled, 2,701 drills were used; 344 lbs. of No. 1 dynamite, 107 coils of fuse, and 2,442 detonators were exploded, and 174 lbs. of linseed oil was also used. The holes were drilled, as a rule, to a depth of 17-7 inches. The drift itself was 7 feet 2 inches high, and 4 feet 7 inches broad. During the period above referred to it was driven 155 feet at a total cost of £90.

CANADIAN COMPANIES.

The West Isles Mining Company gives notice of application for charter of incorporation under the statutes of New Brunswick. Authorized capital, \$1,000,000, divided into 100,000 shares of \$10. Directors: Henry B. Witter, Boston; James M. Lord, West Isles, County Charlotte, N. B.; Fred P. Greenwood, Boston. Head office: St. Stephen's, N.B.. Object: The mining and developing of mining properties, etc.

Anglo-Canadian Asbestos Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of the board of directors of this company held this month, a dividend of 20 per cent. on the year's operations was declared. A similar amount was paid in 1890 and in 1891.

MICA NOTES.

The Lake Gerard Mica System have closed down their Horse Shoe mine near Wilson's corners. The machinery and men are now at work on the "Nellie and Blanche," which is now employing about 50 men.

The Lake Gerard mine has now exposed the biggest show of crystals on record, estimated at 200 tons. Capt. Symons, late of the Bristol iron mines, is superintendent, vice E. B. Roche resigned. 49 hands are employed.

About 15 men are still working on the Thebret lot for the Lake Gerard System.

Mr. S. P. Franchot has nine men under Capt. Henwood mining spar and mica at the Villeneuve mine. The output of spotted and white mica averages about 1,600 pounds weekly and about three tons spar daily.

Mr. Chas. Pearson has five men mining spar on the Dwine lot, near Square Hill. Output about five tons daily. Over 400 tons of selected spar is now on the dump ready for hauling to Buckingham.

There are now three mica cutting establishments in Ottawa. One on Duke street, Chaudiere, one on Sussex street, and the third on Stewart street. The three factories employ about 90 hands.

Messrs. G. B. Hall, John C. Eno and Daniel McGie, of Quebec, are working a fine white mica property on the Saguenay, about 70 miles from Quebec. Mr. Hall was in Ottawa a few days ago and had 60 lbs. of samples of beautiful white muscovite cut to sizes from 3x4 to 9x5. William Campbell, late of Buckingham, is superintending the mine. Two cutters went from Ottawa last week. The output is in the vicinity of 18,000 lbs.

Mr. W. A. Allan is working five men on the Little Rapids for amber mica. About 60 tons is the output up to the end of January.

Messrs. Nellis & Gemmill have 120 tons mica stored in their sheds at Gow mine, Cantley. Seven men, under Wm. Stuart, Sr., are employed. The output averages from three to four tons weekly. Their show is the best looking one at present in the district.

Messrs. Lee Bros. have re-opened their Carey lot on Macgregor Lake. The mica pinched out and a phosphate deposit 60 feet by 12 has been uncovered, and about 225 tons, 85% lumps, are now on the dump. An offer for the lot of \$12 per ton, f.o.b. Templeton, has been refused.

The same firm recently purchased lot 4, in 9th Range of Templeton, from the Templeton & N. O. Co. for \$750. They took out 30 tons mica of fair average quality at a cost of less than \$200, and re-sold the property for \$4,000 to Ferguson Bros., of Montreal.

Messrs. Wilson & Chubbuck have recently purchased 300 acres in the 2nd Range of Wakefield, two properties are being developed with 12 men and show promising veins of high grade mica.

Compressed Peat Charcoal.—H. Ekelund, of Jonkoping, utilizes the heat from the cooling peat charcoal and the waste furnace heat to dry the peat preparatory to coking it, and in this way he is able to treat with advantage material too high in moisture to be otherwise employed. He gives a statement of the cost of production of such charcoal. Experiments with the Ekelund process of making coke from peat have been carried out at Omberg, near Motala, in Sweden. The furnace or oven is built of fire brick, and is divided into four chambers, 32 feet high and 20 feet square. The peat is conveyed on rails into the top chamber, where it is dried for two hours. It is then transferred through doors into the second, and then into the third chamber, in each of which it remains for two hours, and the coking is thus performed in two stages. After this the coke peat is transferred to the fourth or cooling chamber. The gas from the second chamber is passed through condensers to the third chamber, after which it is used for generating steam. The furnace will treat 10,032 cubic feet of peat with the production of 48 tons of coke in the twenty-four hours. The coke is either compressed or is used as produced.