

THE MONTH'S MINING.

ALBERNI CAMP NEWS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

VERY satisfactory reports have been received of the condition of affairs at Alberni. Exploratory mining operations on a large scale are contemplated by several companies and syndicates who have lately secured options in the district. Mr. Armstrong, of the Alberni Development Company, has returned from a visit to England, and work is to be vigorously prosecuted on the Regina group. The Alberni Mine is again in operation, having over 100 tons of good quartz on the dump, averaging \$30 per ton.

The Victoria Metallurgical Company are fitting up their six-stamp mill on the ground, and it is expected that within the course of a week or so it will be in operation.

Mr. Newton is again resuming work on the Golden Eagle.

On the Pansy Blossom, Judge Keeney's property, at the head of the Alberni Canal, considerable work has been done. The ledge now proves to be about seven feet in width, three feet of solid pay ore, termed the pay-streak, with one foot six inches of decomposed ore on the foot wall.

Assessment work is being performed on the Copper King, on Copper Mountain.

The B.C. Agency, (Mr. Bonthron's Company) have opened out some of their claims on Anderson Lake, which are showing up remarkably well. The Superintendent, Mr. Cameron, being asked how much ore he could turn out per day, replied that 500 tons of pay ore would be a low estimate. They have traced and prospected the vein for two miles along the mountain side, and where work has been done it all proves to be shipping ore.

TRANQUIL CREEK.

Col. Ashton, of Tacoma, is busy on Tranquil Creek. His men are at present engaged putting up boarding houses and sleeping accommodations on the respective claims. Mr. Going, P.L.S., in company with other surveyors and fourteen men, went down on the last steamer to survey sixteen claims and three proposed tram lines, to carry ore to the waterfront here.

Mr. Jacobsen's claim, the Iron Cap, is turning out rich enough ore to pay for development work, even at this early stage.

On the Seattle group, on Bear River, work is being satisfactorily prosecuted. An ore vein of high-grade chalcopryrite ore, of seven feet in width is being exposed. Work is also being done on a good many other properties in this section.

Messrs. Redford & Talbot went down recently on the steamer, to commence development of the Cat Face Mine on Cat Face Mountain, Ahousaht Sound, a very large vein of quartz and copper ore mixed. Indications look highly promising, indeed, but some work will have to be done to prove its true value.

Work and prospecting is also going on at Trout River, Sydney Inlet, Aesquoit and Nootka.

No sales of any great importance have taken place within the last few weeks, some prospects on Nootka Sound being sold, however, at the price of \$1,500 for each claim, while some were sold as low as \$250.

CLAYOQUOT.

There is much activity on Clayoquot Sound. The Clayoquot, on Tofino Inlet, is being opened up, the quartz stringers on the surface showing from \$600 to \$700 in free gold.

Much assessment work is being done in the vicinity of Deer Creek and it is expected that Mr. P. Clarke, of the War Eagle, Rossland, will arrive by the next steamer, to look at the Crow group, with a view to its purchase.

Work is again to be resumed on the Hetty Green property shortly.

KLOSH NAANICH.

SHOAL BAY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

WORK on the Dorothy Moreton is proceeding satisfactorily. The excavations for the foundations of the stamp mill is nearly completed, and the steam engine and Rand drills are on the spot. The pipes for the air compressor are laid up the mountain to the mine, and as soon as the engine and boiler are fitted machine drilling will commence. The total cost of the whole plant now being installed will be in the neighbourhood of fifty thousand dollars, and it is expected to have it in running order by the end of October. The whole concern is on the mountain side

and is arranged conveniently. At the top is the crusher fed from a wire rope aerial tram from the mine; below the crusher is a ten-stamp mill, and below the mill a cyanide plant consisting of twelve tanks or vats, in three series of four each, one below the other. Power will be supplied from three sixty horse power boilers. Sixty-five per cent of the gold is free milling, it is said, so it is to be hoped that the stamp mill will be a success, but the ground where the foundation is being dug is very rotten, being broken and shattered limestone. Perhaps however solid rock will be reached with more work. As soon as the power drills are got to work the lead will be proved to a much greater depth. There is however sufficient pay ore in sight, it is said to justify the erection of the plant now being installed, and if and when the lead is proved at the lower level the capacity of the plant can easily be doubled. The Champion and Commonwealth claims have been closed down. No one seems to know why, but it is generally surmised that there is some difficulty between the parties themselves, and that some of them are trying to freeze out others. It would probably be a good thing for the original owners if the bond were thrown up, as they would undoubtedly get a much better price for their property. Work of a more or less desultory character is still going on on the Blue Bells, and I hear that a diamond drill, to be worked by hand, is going to be used. At Cobeldicks in the lagoon in Fredrick Arm, all the miners quit work recently, and there is no one there but the cook and packers. This is owing to the small wages paid by this concern, and the general objection which seems to be entertained against the foreman and his methods. Several experts have been visiting properties in the neighbourhood including the Dorothy Moreton, Blue Bells and Ajax, and I hear nothing but encouraging opinions from all. A new trading post and hotel have been established on what used to be "Bill" Ellis's ranch in Loughborough Inlet by the Loughboro Trading Co., which is run by Mr. S. Gifford-Hart.

CARIBOO.

The gold output from Cariboo this year should, if indications are to be relied on, greatly exceed any annual yield since the most profitable days of the placer mining excitement in the sixties. The mining season is now in full swing, and where, in many instances last year preparatory work, such as fluming and ditching was carried on, actual mining is in progress. A Miller and an Evans elevators are in steady operation on the Horsefly (Horsefly Gold Mining Co.) under Mr. Hobson's direction and a large clean-up is anticipated. In the same locality a number of other properties are being worked, among others the Miocene Company, being engaged in driving from the bed rock at the foot of a 275-foot shaft, to explore the channel. At the Cariboo Hydraulic, on Quesnelle Forks, the large ditch for bringing water down a distance of 12 miles from Narrow head Lake, is well under way. This ditch will afford an adequate water supply for the entire season of seven months, and previously it was only possible to work the mine for a period of three months in the year. Notwithstanding this the clean-up last year yielded over \$120,000. A large wash-up is also likely to be made this season from the claims being worked by Senator Campbell at Barkerville. The Campbell elevators, a description of which was published in a former issue of the *Mining Record*, are now in successful operation.

On Slough Creek, a strong English Company, having acquired the properties formerly exploited by Mr. Laird and Mr. Sargent, has sent a very prominent hydraulic engineer, Mr. H. Thompson, of London, to carry on operations. Mr. Thompson, by-the-way, reported favorably on the ground last year. Mr. G. O. Leask, has also, we understand, re-organized in England, the Cariboo Company he represents.

VERNON.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

THERE are at last justifiable grounds for expecting some important movements in mining properties in this district. The Bon Diable has been visited by influential men with a view to its sale, and a few of the properties on the lake, in the vicinity of the Densy, have also received attention, especially the claims belonging to the Ruby Gold Mining Company. The Monashee mine has been thoroughly inspected, by Dr. Hatch, who is visiting this country in the interest of his company in London. Dr. Hatch came in from the mine on the 16th, and left the same day for Rossland, where he has other properties to report on, but he intends re-visiting this district in August next.