

TEXADA ISLAND.

Texada Island, of which little yet is known in mining circles, will ere long create not a little excitement. Scant attention has been paid to this particular island centre, and yet, this notwithstanding, Vancouver will probably benefit considerably more from Texada development than from that of any other part of the coast, as for facilities in mining, shipping, &c., the Isle commands the premier position in B.C. Why more interest has not in Vancouver been taken in its development can only be explained on the supposition that Texada lies too close to the city and has in consequence been considered able to look after itself. Vancouver's business men will, however, be wise if they look more to Texada, as otherwise the trade of the Isle may slip into other hands in other places.

There are now some twelve properties working on Texada, and twice that number of claims on which assessment work is being done. Probably few mines are better known than the Van Anda, and it is fairly certain that within a very short time it will be known still better, as a consignment of high grade ore is being shipped to Messrs. Vivian & Co., of Swansea, through Mr. Pellow Harvey. This ore, a splendid bornite, carries considerable gold and silver, with a large percentage of copper, varying from 20 to 50 per cent. The workings in the mine can, however, be much improved, and quantities of ore shipped by every boat. The shaft is down 130 feet from where drifting is taking place on the vein, averaging six feet, of which three feet are stated to be in solid ore worth \$100 per ton. At present the want of systematic work is only too apparent. Were this mine in thoroughly good and capable hands, the shipments would be heavy and profits large. The situation of the mine is unequalled for cheap work, lying as it does within a quarter of a mile of deep water. The ore can therefore be put on a boat and shipped to a Pacific coast smelter at a cost not exceeding one dollar per ton.

The Raven has resumed work and a hoisting plant has been fixed. The shaft is now down 140 feet and it is intended to sink to 250 feet before drifting to the lode. Several shipments have been made, with smelter results equal to amounts varying between \$30 and \$50 per ton. The ore is a magnetic iron, carrying from 10 to 30 per cent. copper, with gold values equal to from \$5 to \$20. A staff of 12 to 20 men are working, and development will be pushed ahead.

The Surprise shaft is down 203 feet and drifting has commenced on a vein five feet wide, carrying 18 inches of solid copper pyrites. This ore will give smelting returns equal to \$30 per ton. From fair samples the gold value equals 17 dwts and the copper from 8 to 15 per cent. This is the deepest shaft on the coast and the work has been done in a

continued to the 200 feet level. The Company is also making roads to enable regular shipments, and it is believed that one hundred tons weekly will be shipped at an early date. The first shipment is expected by the next trip of the Comox. On this mine all shots are exploded by electricity, and the appliances on the shaft will enable sinking to 500 feet. It is, however, a great disadvantage to the owners of the mine that no assistance is rendered by the Provincial Government in making roads and assisting well-deserving enterprise.

Twelve men are working on the Silver Tip and the shaft is down 130 feet in good ore. It is intended to sink to 200 feet before drifting. As in the Surprise a battery is used for exploding dynamite. The difficulty in getting ore down from lack of some assistance from the Provincial Government in making roads is here very much felt. Already ore shipment has been made to Messrs. Vivian & Co., of Swansea, and it is contemplated to ship continuously. The Silver Tip property has a reputation for its regular value from almost the surface. This is principally in gold, which gives from one to two ounces, with from 5 to 10 per cent. copper. There is little doubt that within two or three months this property will be opened sufficiently to be able to pay expenses and yield good profits. The Mining Critic hopes in an early issue to notice in further detail the possibilities of Texada.

EAST KOOTENAY'S MINES AND CLAIMS.

The Thunder Hill concentrator is reported sold to a Victoria syndicate, which will shortly operate it on an extensive scale in order to treat a large proportion if not all the ores on Thunder Hill and Findlay Creek. Meanwhile Major Cloherty and his associates are contemplating the setting up of a concentrator and tramway in connection with their properties in the Bennison Basin. As a result the quiet little lumber hamlet of Beaver would become quite a busy centre of precious metal shipments via the C. P. R.

Rich strikes are reported from Toby Creek, where 400 claims are now staked. Much of the ore is grey copper in crystalline quartz. In the case of a claim staked by Mr. A. J. Hopkins, assays are reported to show 62 ozs. in silver, \$7 gold and 15 per cent. copper. The noted North Star mine is, moreover, proving richer than ever, a large body of carbonates showing exceptional values in wire silver having just been opened out. Other promising strikes are also reported from Wild Horse Creek, and judging by present activity, East Kootenay should ere the close of the year, greatly increase its previous best precious metal output and before 1898 closes have come well to the front as one of the best mining regions in the Province.

to keep back for a while railroad development in such a district as Bouny Creek until they have got sufficient prospects "for a song." Nor is it better for wonder that a hardworking inspector looks with scorn at some of less than half equipped "so distant mining experts," of whom so many now appear in British Columbia, hoping by the lucky speculative hit to make their money at little cost or trouble, and by means mainly of a considerable output of self-assurance and large assertion. A genuine well supported expert and capitalist who will act fairly by the miner are on the other hand great needs in B. C., and as such certain as a rule to be well received by the genuine prospector, who certainly has, as a rule, a hard time, and but rarely makes any very big stake" for his pains.

THE CARIBOO HYDRAULIC.

This mining company made a clean-up, completed on August 26th, representing the result of 47 days working. The amalgam thus obtained runs to 5,685 ounces of an estimated value of \$60,500. The dryness of the year has prevented the fullest use of the mine's opportunities, but excellent results have nevertheless been obtained, which again should be considerably bettered in 1898, when the Company will have completed its intended water storage works and thus rendered its hydraulic more effective and continuous. Meanwhile for the remainder of the summer working on shortness of water supply be continued for only part of each day. But with the results already obtained this season, it is probable that the outcome of the work of 1897 will be the getting from this successful gold gravel mine of over its output of nearly \$150,000.

THE ORPHAN BOY CLAIM.

A correspondent of the Revelstoke Herald describes the state of affairs at the notorious Orphan Boy mine, or rather claim, as follows, leaving others to compare the facts with the details given in a following prospectus and otherwise:

"The No. 1, or upper tunnel, is in 101 feet by actual measurement. It cuts the quartz ledge, which has a north-westerly end of 45 degrees, close to the mouth. The lower tunnel, which is in about 58 feet, will have to be run another 150 feet to catch this ledge, granting for the sake of argument that it is not a blanket ledge. There are about three tons of ore on the dump and as much as five could probably be picked up on the claim, taking in float and what was blown out of a prospecting hole, which the prospectors called the shaft."

Much important matter has unavoidably been crowded out of this week's Critic, but will appear in next issue.

Parties having anything to advertise connected with mines, mining and minerals, will find the Critic to be the most