

August, \$25,000; October, \$25,000; December, \$25,000; January, 1897, \$25,000. The facilities for taking out ore are now greatly increased, and it may be expected that this year the dividends will be larger. The dividends thus far paid by the producing mines foot up \$462,500.

Regarding the Slocan district, (which for the information of the uninitiated, we may say lies north of Rossland), D. R. Young of Slocan City the other day, said: "The character of the ore gradually changes from Sandon to Lemon Creek. At the former place but little, if any, gold is found in the ore, while as one gets further south the gold gradually comes in. At Eight Mile Creek the gold first becomes noticeable. At Ten Mile Creek there is still more of it. At the mines immediately surrounding the Enterprise there is a high enough value in gold to cut some figure; while when Lemon Creek is reached the ore has become almost, if not entirely, gold-bearing. Another factor in this gold belt is that it is not any of your low grade propositions but, like the silver properties in the Slocan, exceedingly high grade."

On behalf of the United States Government, ex-Governor West of Utah, Special Treasury Officer Geo. W. Whitehead of Washington, D.C., Special Treasury Agent Leslie E. Cullon, and M. J. Maloney, Collector of Customs at Northport, have just concluded a general inspection of Rossland, its ores and its facilities for smuggling, and the result is likely to be the establishment after all of the obnoxious sampling works at Northport. Ex-Governor West, after his visit, said: "The sampling works at Northport will be re-established when the new administration goes into power. It is an absolute necessity to the customs service. It will be remembered an appropriation of \$10,000 was made by Congress for this purpose, but its expenditure was made subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. Secretary Carlisle refused to expend the money. As it is the Government must accept the assays of the smelting companies and this is not satisfactory. It may be that, for the mutual convenience of shippers and the Government, sampling works will be established at other points also, but this will be determined when the whole matter comes up for consideration."

THE WAR EAGLE PURCHASE.

The general meeting of the shareholders of the War Eagle, held at Spokane, Wash., to discuss the sale of the mine to the Gooderham syndicate, was very tempestuous. There was strong opposition to the sale. Bids were made of \$810,000, finally increased to \$900,000 for the property, but only a small portion was cash. The Gooderham syndicate offered \$700,000 cash, leaving some assets to the company beyond this figure, and finally, after various adjournments of the meeting, the offer was accepted at a vote of 267,145 shares for the Gooderham sale to 172,995 for the acceptance of the Heneage offer. Spokane was greatly excited over the affair, and the opinion expressed in some quarters was that it would be much adverse to the interests of Spokane as a mining centre. The erection and profitable operation of the proposed Northport smelter will be hindered by the deal, as it is thought the purchasers will erect a smelter, or have, at least, a smelter on the Canadian side of the boundary. The purchase will have an important effect in the mining industry of British Columbia. The firm, of which the purchasers are heads are, we believe, generally regarded as worth, at least \$24,000,000, and Mr. George Gooderham is noted for great carefulness and success in investments. The *Spokane Review* says the Gooderham purchasers will clear 800,000 by the transaction.

The Slocan Silver Belt.

THIS statement showing value of galena ore from the different mines in the Slocan district shipped per Canadian Pacific railway to the United States, from October 1, 1895, to September 30, 1896, will convey to readers some idea of the wealth of this part of the Kootenay country:—Alamo, \$208,266; Ruth, \$20,113; Last Chance, \$6,187; Mountain Chief, \$2,950; Slocan Star, \$303,808; Idaho, \$105,516; Reco, \$31,523; Ivanhoe, \$26,355; Ajax, \$2,660; Monitor, \$29,913; Silver Cup, \$3,641; Lucky Jim, \$9,131; Alpha, \$1,602; Wonderful, \$6,653; Enterprise, \$4,657; total, \$762,988.

THE galena ore shipped to smelter from November 20, 1895, to January 1, 1897, via Kaslo and Slocan railway, was 25,878,929 pounds, or 12,939 tons of 2,000 pounds, valued at \$1,552,680, the product of forty shipping mines, as follows:—

	Lbs.
Slocan Star.....	6,372,250
Ruth.....	2,657,360
Wellington.....	757,950
Mt. Chief.....	1,098,500
Reco.....	604,000
Whitewater.....	2,356,934
Last Chance.....	833,000
Noble Five.....	989,905
Deadman.....	741,100
Blue Bird.....	65,200
Dardanelles.....	179,900
Washington.....	1,668,920
Antonio.....	371,800
Surprise.....	469,900
Slocan Boy.....	568,140
R. E. Lee.....	289,930
Ruby Silver.....	56,940
Eureka.....	99,350
Jackson.....	677,350
Rambler.....	339,000
Iron Hand.....	1,148,000
Goodenough.....	270,250
Lucky Jim.....	350,000
Payne.....	1,909,180
Wonderful.....	602,000
London.....	35,500
Black Fox.....	68,650
Consolation.....	24,000
Red Fox.....	12,900
Antelope.....	18,500
Madison.....	19,440
Gibson.....	18,570
American Boy.....	131,000
Chambers' Group.....	21,500
Lucky Boy.....	5,260
Snap.....	6,000
Longham.....	6,800
Nonpareil.....	1,300
Mike McAndrews.....	7,350
Northern Belle.....	25,000
Total.....	25,878,929

Pannings.

During 1896 there were 336 mining companies incorporated in British Columbia, with a capitalization of about \$325,000,000. It is said that there are 65,000 staked claims in the province.

Kettle River district is likely to have a great influx of people when the season opens, and not only in prospecting, but in development work on properties already taken up, is there likely to be considerable activity. Big mines will probably be started as soon as a railway is begun.

The Whitewater mine, Slocan district, declared a dividend of \$24,000 on December 31st. This, with a previous dividend, gives \$36,000 for the season's work. Only development work has been attempted. During 1896 about 1,400 feet of tunnels and 400 feet of connections were run.

HOW FOUR LUCKY BRITISH COLUMBIA MINERS QUARTERED UP \$60,000.

JOHN P. Howe, the well-known Pacific Coast theatrical manager, says *The Spokesman* of

Spokane, has returned from a successful tour of the northern mining country, and announces that he has arranged to open a permanent theatre at Rossland next month. "The building is now being erected," he said, "and will be altered according to my plans. It will have a seating capacity of 500. I shall play both stock and combinations, and have arranged to send companies to Nelson, Trail, Kaslo and Sandon. On the recent trip we played Rossland, Nelson, Kaslo and Sandon, and everywhere the seating capacity of the halls was unable to accommodate the audiences. It is the most promising new section I was ever in. In 1878 I played through the Black Hills, in 1879 in Leadville, in 1880 in Butte, and the past summer I took a company through Cripple Creek and other mining camps of Colorado. None of those sections ever impressed me as I have been impressed with the resources and future of your northern country.

"On the trip from Nelson to Kaslo I observed a scene that struck me as unusual. Four miners had sold a mine for \$60,000, and had come down from the hills to get their money at the bank in Nelson. They had it in a satchel, and were dividing it in a corner of the cabin. There were great handfuls for each partner, and they had difficulty in stowing it away. I never saw a happier lot of fellows.

"I was greatly impressed with the admirable way in which the law is enforced and order preserved. I never saw anything like it in a mining camp. No one need hesitate to take his family anywhere in that country. The hotels are uniformly good, and the accommodations provided for much travel are excellent.

"Well-informed, conservative persons with whom I conversed believe that country will have 100,000 people within the next five years."

EAST KOOTENAY COAL.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE CROW'S NEST FUEL DEPOSITS.

THE coal fields of the East Kootenay District, in what is known as the Crow's Nest Pass, lie says the *Fort Steel Prospector*, in a south easterly direction from Fort Steele, the distance to the nearest available coal being about 60 miles. These coal fields in the near future will have a world-wide reputation, both on account of the quality and quantity to be extracted, and are, without doubt, the best coal fields in America undeveloped. The western outcrop of the field is on the side of a mountain in the valley of Elk River, "one of the largest tributaries of the Kootenay River." On the eastern side the coal seams have been traced a distance of 40 miles, with surface crosscuts made at intervals showing the seams and walls. The lowest known seam is some 1500 feet above the drainage level of the valley, and is 30 feet in thickness; 100 feet higher there is another seam 30 feet thick; then comes a seam 15 feet thick; then a small 3-foot one; then a 7-foot one; then another 30-foot seam, and above these are five more workable seams, from 4 to 10 feet in thickness, 11 seams in all, making a total of 148 feet in thickness of coal exposed. These seams dip at an angle of 30 to 35 degrees, the upper seams having the least dip. There are three large creeks cutting this coal field, and the seams are exposed on the banks of those creeks, and openings can be made to mine the coal without much preliminary expense, the cuts made by the creek being more valuable than so many tunnels to prospect the coal, because there is room to operate the mines on both sides of the creek and the mines are proved to be permanent without any cost; in fact, nature did the prospecting. In addition to the coal on Elk River, further east on Martin's