

successfully consummated, the shares of the new undertaking having been already underwritten. As the new company is to be capitalized at the absurdly high figure of six and a half million dollars, and as neither the Sunset group, owned by the original Montreal & Boston Company, nor the Morrison have been profitably operated in the past, for the reason seemingly that the ore so far treated has not been of payable grade, the outlook for the new concern, excepting always for stock-mongering purposes, is not a particularly promising one. It is true the Dominion Copper Company's Brooklyn group is of value, though the ore-body is relatively small when compared with the deposits in this district, which are now being successfully worked. In any case the possibility of the new company earning profits on its inflated capital is remote to a degree, and this view is evidently shared by that exceptionally astute person, Mr. Jos. Breen, who insisted on payment in hard cash before relinquishing his interests in the Brooklyn.

At a meeting of the shareholders of the Slough Creek, Limited, a resolution was passed providing for the issue of 40,000 cumulative preference shares, carrying interest at the rate of £10 per centum per annum, and also entitling the holder to 40 per cent. of the profits of the Company available for distribution in dividends, after the preferential dividend shall have been paid. It is further stipulated that should the Company be liquidated before the holders' shall have received £3 per share in dividends, they shall be entitled to be repaid the amounts paid up on their shares in priority to the claims of the remaining shareholders. The object of this arrangement is seemingly to provide funds, should it be found necessary, for the continuation of the work now in progress at Slough Creek, of preparing the mine, by steady pumping, for actual mining work in the ancient river channel which has been tapped. The water once removed, it is believed, the venture will pay handsomely. The Company has meanwhile been twice reconstructed, and although funds are not as yet required the directors evidently believe in anticipating the need, and thus avoiding the possibility of delay in the future on that account. If ever an undertaking was deserving of success it is surely this one, for directors, manager, and shareholders have in the face of much difficulty and discouragement refused to be discouraged, but instead persevered as one man to carry the enterprise to a successful issue. As to the probabilities, if the water difficulty is once overcome, and recent indications have been most gratifying, the profits will be reckoned in hundreds rather than in ten per cents. Also it will be a very big thing for the Cariboo district.

Although the probabilities are not in favour of an amalgamation of the Le Roi and War Eagle-Centre Star companies, the suggestion itself, which by the way has now been raised for the third or fourth time, is by no means an impossible one. There are sound

reasons for the belief that the three large mines might be more advantageously, that is to say more economically worked under one general management, while doubtless the arrangement would in general facilitate milling and smelting operations, particularly if it were possible to include in the consolidation a developed mine in the Boundary district, from which a good supply of ore containing a fairly high percentage of iron might be regularly obtained. Again the Le Roi certainly, possibly the War Eagle and Centre Star, are over-capitalized, and the opportunity of consolidation necessitating of course general reconstruction, would afford an excellent excuse for the reduction of the capital of the consolidated companies to an amount upon which it should be practicable to earn a substantial percentage of profit. The chief difficulty, we have heard it suggested, in the way of rendering effectual any arrangement of the sort, would rest in the determination of the value of the properties and the basis on which consolidation would be carried out from the point of view of shareholders. But if matters reach that stage it will be possible, of course, to gain a very nearly accurate idea of the value of the properties from the reports thereon by independent engineers who would naturally base their opinions on the extent of the ore actually in sight at the time they made their examinations.

The outlook is decidedly promising for much activity in mining matters in East Kootenay this season. Last month we published information relative to lode mining at the Ptarmigan mines, placer mining on Perry Creek, and to the Sullivan Mining Company's smelter at Marysville, the completion of which works is now in hand, and this month we give some particulars of the Paradise mine. In May we described the St. Eugene mine, now employing about 300 men after having been idle for about three years. The Flathead country, in Southeast Kootenay, is attracting much attention, and prospecting for coal and oil will probably be prosecuted with vigor during the summer and return, numbers of men having already gone into that section with that intent. An enlarged market for Morrissey coal is reported, and the railway controlled by the Great Northern Railway Company is being extended from Morrissey Junction to Fernie, which will also give the Coal Creek colliery unbroken rail connection with Washington and Montana markets for coal and coke. The considerable water power available near Elko, so it has been announced, is to be utilised shortly. There are numerous other instances in which enterprise is being displayed—in the coal section surrounding the Crow's Nest Coal Company's holdings, in lode-mining in Northeast Kootenay, and in hydraulic and other placer mining on several of the creeks tributary to either the Columbia or the Kootenay River. Then there is an extensive lumbering industry besides, so that the prevailing optimistic tone noticeable in the district press appears to be fully justified.