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OUR UNDERGROUND WEALTH

Has the Golden Cache Group Been Sold?

FORT STEELE DISTRICT.

An Interesting Letter in The Rossland Miner From Jennings.

People Ought Not to Go Till The Weather Gets Warm—Distances to the Various Camps—No Part of the Country Has Yet Been Well Prospected—The Yukon Mining Country.

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Before going further let me say that any man going into that country before warm weather sets in, as referred to above, is simply wasting his time. The hotels in Steele are already filled with people who will be kicking their heels around until warm weather sets in, i.e., about May 15. The snow in the mountains goes down when it makes a start, but it is not till that time prospecting is out of the question. The elevation of the town of Fort Steele is 2500 feet, but none of the mines are less than 5000.

Having got to Fort Steele, say on May 10, the prospectors will not do much in getting an outfit. The stores carry large stocks of all the needs, except perhaps mules, for at least \$100 can be had from \$25 to \$40. The distances to the different camps from the town are approximately: North Star, 90 miles; Wild Horse, 25 miles; Moyas, 30 miles; Perry Creek, 10 miles; Dibble Creek, 10 to 15 miles. There are good trails to all these points. Up the St. Mary's there are claims located all of the way to the summit of the range, lying between Steele and Kootenay Lake. A trail was cut last season along the route so that horses may be taken from the lake, but the snow is deep and the pass not available until July. There is also a trail to Bonner's Ferry, but it is pretty late before it can be used, and as it has not been cut out of late years it is in pretty bad shape.

No part of the country has been well prospected. The number of prospectors has always been small, and for the most part they have stayed within the claims owned by the company. The country is large, the Fort Steele District alone embracing more general land than all the West Kootenay camps put together.

For others than better opportunities are offered than in most new countries. There is farming land along the Kootenay River, north of the town, and very large areas of grazing lands. It is true that much of it has been looked up by the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Kootenay Valley Company, by whom it is owned in part, but every inducement to settlers, as it will be to their advantage to have the country developed, and the claims are still nice spots to be pre-empted, and improved places can be had for very reasonable prices.

Business men will, of course, want to establish themselves on the line of the new West Pass Railway. Here they will be opportunities which could not be had on the construction of the line. A business established, say at the crossing of the Kootenay River, will have a free field for 12 or 18 months before competition can come from the end of the track, and in the meantime supplies for construction will be distributed both ways from the point. Every man going into or leaving the country must purchase give the place a call.

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Mr. G. A. Pounder of Rossland, B.C., has arrived in town and is staying at the Rossland. He is interested in the Silver Bell, the Ilex, Ottawa, Old Bull and Canada Mutual Companies, and his object in coming east is to secure the latest machinery for working placer properties.

NEAR THE ARCTIC CIRCLE.

Something About Life in the Yukon Gold Fields of the North.

Writing from Circle City, Alaska, Thomas H. Mallory gives some further information regarding the Yukon mining country. He says:

between the logs with moss instead of mud to keep out the cold, and the roof is covered with dirt. Of these cabins there are about 500. To furnish necessities for all there are two stores representing the two transportation companies doing business in the country. Yukon River region.

In addition to these in business there are two restaurants, two tin shops, two blacksmith shops, two jewelers, two furniture makers, one school house and church combined, one opera house and a large number of saloons and dance houses, where liquid refreshments are sold at 50 cents a drink and the tiger catches the honest miner with a fat gold sack, who bets on the high card.

We have no civil officers to administer justice, all disputes and other infractions of law and good order being quickly settled by calling a meeting, appointing a committee to act as a board of arbitration, or selecting a judge and court officials, and submitting the case to a jury with only the facts before them, without being embellished by the eloquent language of a learned disciple of Blackstone.

Where the gold is found.

The nearest mines to this place are 50 miles to the east, at the base of what is put down in the old maps as the Hazel Mountains. The first creek is called the Hazel, then comes still further away, Boulder, Independence, Mammoth, Mastodon, Miller, Fortuna, and some small gulches, which are tributaries of these creeks, and are here designated as pups. These creeks are on the east side of a long ridge or divide. On the opposite side is Eagle, Butte, Pay Dirt, Harrison and a number of other creeks and gulches, all containing gold in paying quantities.

The rock formation throughout this district is slate and diorite, with occasional granite intrusions. How much gold was taken out last summer I can not say, though it must have run up to \$500,000 or \$600,000, for six claims on Mastodon alone yielded from \$40,000 to \$60,000 each. They employed from 12 to 20 men on each claim, running night and day during the working season of three months, and paying the men \$10 for 10 hours work.

Now freighting is done. Freightings in these during the winter is now done mostly with sleighs and horses, and costs 8 cents a pound. Last winter it cost 10 cents a pound done with dog teams. During the summer some supplies are packed out on horses at a charge of 4 cents a pound. So you see that freight, added to the cost of supplies here, makes living at the mines some high.

Flour is sold at \$8 per 100 pounds, bacon, 35 cents per pound; sugar, 20 cents; beans, 12 cents; rice, 15 cents; rolled oats, 20 cents; dried fruit, 35 cents; coffee, 60 cents; butter, 50 cents; potatoes and onions, 10 cents a bushel, as they lasted, but not half enough to supply the demand were brought in; tomatoes, 50 cents per can, 50 cents; condensed milk, 50 cents. Whiskey is now held at \$35 per gallon.

Value of Dog Teams.

As the cayuse once was to the miners of Idaho and Montana the most useful and valuable animal, so is the dog to the miner here. Almost every man is the owner of from one to a dozen of them. They are used in hauling out supplies to places where horses do not go; they are useful in hauling in supplies, and in the summer they will carry a pack of 50 pounds and follow him over the mountains in search of new diggings. Just now they come high, owing to the excitement about the new gold district discovered last August, 500 miles up the river. A team of five dogs sold to-day for \$250.

So far it has not been very cold here this winter. This morning the thermometer registered the coldest—45 degrees below zero. Last winter was the coldest experienced in this country by the "oldest inhabitants." During the month of December the mercury remained frozen at 40 degrees below zero for a number of days. In January the spirit thermometer registered 10 degrees below zero, and it is believed that it was 10 degrees colder than that, though there was no way here of testing. It was cold enough.

The walls of my cabin inside resembled a miniature glacier, with fine burning in the stove night and day. He likes the country.

I like this country, not for its varied and romantic scenery, nor for its beautiful displays of the aurora, or its grand views from our mountain peaks of the midnight sun, or for the many months of cold and frosty weather, causing often extreme hardships and privations, but because of the independence one feels and has here in this snow-clad region, far away from the struggling mass of humanity, asking and often begging for a day's work to sustain their wants, or in their humiliation becoming objects of charity like the country here.

I am firm in my belief that Alaska, including that portion of the Northwest Territory of Canada which is drained by the Yukon, has a larger area of mineralized country than can be found anywhere else on the globe. I believe in the prediction of Humboldt, when he wrote long ago "that the greatest gold fields of the future would be found within the Arctic circle of North America." Away to the northwest for 800 miles along the range of mountains in which the placer mines to the south are found, gold has been discovered in many places in valuable quantities, but at present cannot be worked.

The new gold district which is attracting the attention of those who can get there is only 40 miles above Fort Cudahy, in the tributaries of a river called Clondyke, and is only a short distance from the Yukon. The diggings are reported to be very rich. I expect to start for that place in a few days, hauling on a hand sled my stove, tent, blankets and a small amount of supplies, to last while on the way. It is a long haul of 500 miles. Flour is said to be worth \$9 a sack. All other supplies are plentiful.

On the 10th this letter will be taken out by a party of men starting with dog teams on their long journey to Juneau of a thousand miles. They will reach there early in March. We do not know yet who was elected President last November.

Tents for Mining Districts.

Mr. D. Pike, tent manufacturer, 157 King-street east, is prepared to supply tents to mining prospectors and others. Miners and prospectors who are going to Rat Portage should be sure to take one of Mr. Pike's tents as part of their outfit.

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MINING AND DEVELOPMENT CO. 3-5

Two premier properties under development—TRAIL HUNTER and CROMWELL Inter-Ocean, 10c; Rossland-Trail Creek, 12c. Ilex, 3c; Red Eagle, 7c; Silver Bell, 6c; Victory-Triumph, 9c; Rossland Dev. Co., 12 Northern Belle, 8c.

TORONTO MINING AGENCY, 69 YONGE-ST. Tel. 2204.

OF THE COLORADO Gold Mining and Development Company, Chamber Commerce Building, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

To the Shareholders of the Colorado Gold Mining and Development Company: Notice is hereby given that the books of said company will be closed from the 1st to the 15th day of May, inclusive, for the purpose of computing the dividend of one per cent. per month for the months of February, March and April, as provided by the resolution of the stockholders at its last annual meeting. That under no circumstances will any stock be transferred upon its books from said 1st day of May to the 15th.

Dated April 6, 1937. C. S. HARTWELL, President. C. A. KERR, Secretary.

A GOOD INVESTMENT

SHARES OF THE CONFEDERATION MINES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

First issue now selling at 10c. Write for prospectus, 186 Head Office: 112 King-St. East, Toronto.

GRIPPLE CREEK

THE RICHEST GOLD CAMP ON EARTH. Output for January and February over \$2,500,000.

We offer stock in three actual working mines: Chicago-Cripple Creek, G. M. Co., 20c; Gregory Lending, 30c; Electric Tranny and Tunnel, 35c. Send for Prospectus.

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A Shipping Mine. Crown Granted. Two Large Veins.

—Shafts all in Ore. —Tunnel all in Ore. Average Assays, \$50. For Prospectus, etc., apply to R. S. WRIGHT & CO., 99 BAY STREET.

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Tin Horn Quartz Mining 25c. Princes 20c. Hancock 20c. Deer Park 20c. Grand Prize 20c. British Can. Gold Fields 20c. Dardanelles, Ilex, Silver Bell, Deer Park, Alf, Jublet, Smuggler, Ontario Gold Fields.

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Morning Glory

Mines, Vernon, B.C. Only a few shares unsold. Our latest Assay shows \$31,407.09 per ton.

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JOHN WEBBER, Mining Broker, 20 Toronto-street, Toronto.

THE CANADIAN MUTUAL LOAN AND INVESTMENT CO.

Capital subscribed \$1,000,000. Capital paid up \$1,000,000. Fully paid up permanent stock issued, bearing 8 per cent. interest. Head Office, 51 Yonge Street.

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I might arrange for more exchanges of Canada Mutual for Colorado, Even Deal, or other stocks. Correspondence Solicited. 845.

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WAR EAGLE CONSOLIDATED STOCK.

Special offering for a class of 100 shares for \$1 at 100c. Also 200 COLORADO at a very close figure.

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A DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

THE KOOTENAY-CARIBOO MINING & INVESTMENT CO., Ltd.

Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1862 (Imperial), Province of British Columbia.

—Shares Fully Paid, Absolutely Non-Assessable.

—Authorized Capital, \$2,500,000, divided into 2,500,000 Shares of \$1.00 Each.

ORGANIZATION.

PRESIDENT—The HON. JOHN COSTIGAN, Privy Councillor, M.P., Ex-Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT—JOHN MULLIGAN, Esq., Yonkers, N.Y.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT—JOHN SMALL, Esq., Collector of Customs, Toronto.

DIRECTORS.

Hon. Joseph Royal, ex-Lieut.-Governor N.W.T., Montreal.

J. D. Hazen, Esq., Q.C., ex-M.P., St. John, N.B.

Jules Tessier, Esq., Q.C., M.P.P., Quebec, Que.

S. S. Ryckman, Esq., ex-M.P., Manufacturer, Hamilton, Ont.

H. G. McMicken, Esq., General Agent G. N.R. Company, Toronto, Ont.

Major Thomas Reattie, M.P., Capitalist, London, Ont.

Alex. Watson, Justice, Chicago, Ill.

James L. Gates, Dir. Beet Sugar Company, Menominee Falls, Milwaukee.

J. T. McLaughlin, Esq., President Union Land Exchange, Buffalo, N.Y.

Consulting Mining Engineer—W. Hamilton Merritt, Esq., M. E. Assc. Royal School of Mines.

Secretary—George Macbeth, Esq., Auditor Toronto General Trusts Co.

Solicitor—R. L. Johnston, Esq., of Dickson & Johnston, Toronto.

Bankers—Union Bank of Canada.

The Provisional Directors secured valuable interests and options in Rossland, Slocan, Boundary Creek, Cariboo and Rainy-River Districts, some of which are being carefully examined by the Company's Engineers, and the remainder will be reported on as quickly as possible.

The first issue of this stock is being put on the market in blocks of not less than 100 shares at the rate of 25c. a share, and remittances for same can be forwarded to the Company's official Brokers.

For Prospectus, Lists of Options, Interests or any other information apply to

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