

Personal.

THOMAS DOYLE, foreman of the P. E. I. Railway blacksmith works, is dead.

B. D. McCONNELL has been appointed town engineer of Cote St. Antoine, Que.

OSCAR VOGT, of Galt, has charge of Shurley & Dietrich's exhibit at the World's Fair.

COL. BUTTERFIELD has returned to Rock Island, Que., from a trip, much benefited in health.

J. S. DRURY has accepted a position on the surveying staff of the British Columbia Government.

WM. JOHNSTON, late locomotive and mechanical foreman, Richmond, Que., is removing to Toronto.

OWING to ill health John Ennis has resigned his position of chief engineer of the Oxford Mills, Norwich, Ont.

THOS. LAIRD, engineer for the Perkins engine works, Toronto, died this month in an apoplectic fit. He was 69 years of age.

FREDERICK L. SIMS, of Toronto, has been appointed manager of the Steel Sink, Boiler and Stamping Co., Mimico, Ont.

HON. MR. OUTINET and Mr. Coste, chief engineer of public works, are on tour in British Columbia, inspecting the public works.

JONATHAN STEVENS, proprietor of the steam wood-working factory at Riverside, N. B., has been seriously injured in an engine accident.

W. C. BUCKLEY, formerly of Montreal and late of Chicago, has been admitted a partner in the Southwick Oil Co., with offices at Chicago.

J. A. WHELPLEY, skate manufacturer, Greenwich, N. B., died last month after a short illness. The death occurred in a New Hampshire town.

DANIEL McEWAN, of the late firm of McEwan & Son, machinists, Kingston, died there last month. He was a very old and respected resident and carried on business for years.

MR. RENNELS, the new superintendent of the Moncton and St. Flavie division of the I. C. R., was presented with an address on leaving Truro to take his quarters at Campbellton, N. B.

F. W. COWIE, hydrographic surveyor of the Public Works Department, has begun work in connection with the proposed survey of the ship channel between Cape Charles and Quebec.

DONALD McNEIL, locomotive engineer on the Intercolonial Railway, and one of the oldest and best railway men in Quebec, died of diabetes at his residence, River du Loop, last month.

F. J. H. WISE, of the Vancouver Coal & Land Co., of Nanaimo, has been at Peterboro examining the new electric mining locomotive turned out from the electric company's shops there.

DAVID PRESTON, mechanical superintendent of the C. P. R. works in Montreal, died a few days since from blood poisoning produced by the use of a solution applied to a corn. He was 60 years of age.

JOHN WILLIAMSON was drowned in his own mill at Hawkestone, Ont., a few days ago, while fixing some machinery near the water wheel. There is a mystery about this. He had money and notes on his person, which have not been found.

SILVER MINING OF THE FUTURE.

THE EFFECT OF THE KOOTENAY DEVELOPMENTS.

Editor of the CANADIAN ENGINEER.

Few people in the east are aware of the unusual activity in silver mining in British Columbia. The most striking phase of the question is the fact that American smelters are beginning to look to Canadian mines for the necessary fluxing ores hitherto provided by the home and Mexican mines. There are two reasons for this. Owing to the low price of silver so many of the American mines have closed down that the home supply of fluxing ores is likely to be wholly inadequate. The second reason is the fact that the ores of Kootenay are very much better for fluxing than are those of the United States. This state of affairs may lead to results that will astonish those who have been giving no thought to this important subject. That Canada may be the silver producing country, *par excellence*, on this continent, is within the range of possibilities. Suppose silver to remain at present low figures, or go even lower, what would be the inevitable result? Our ores would become an absolute necessity to the running of the immense smelting

plants across the line. It has been demonstrated that the rich Kootenay mines will pay at prices for silver far lower than it seems possible for it to go. This is true even though the Kootenay ores pay no less than \$30 a ton duty on lead exported to the States. Once the American smelters become dependent on Kootenay for the bulk of fluxing ores, we have only to remember who now occupies the presidential chair to-day to readily anticipate the removal of that duty (which removal has been clamored for already by the smelter interest, for two or three years past, and almost expected even under the Harrison administration.) With the added advantage of thirty dollars a ton—itsself a magnificent profit—Kootenay would have a most extraordinary boom. The following extract from the Victoria, B.C., *Colonist* of April 7th bears upon this point:—

"Charles G. Griffith, representative of the company operating smelters at Great Falls and East Helena, Montana, arrived in Nelson (Kootenay) on Friday. He has made several trips to this district as a sight-seer, but is now here on business. Heretofore the smelters, which he represents drew their supply of lead ores from the Cœur d'Alenes principally, but that supply is now being greatly reduced owing to the shutting down of several of the largest of the producing mines. The ores of the Slocan will be purchased from this time on, as they are the best ones obtainable for fluxing, owing to the high percentage of lead carried, one ton being equal to a ton and a half of concentrates from the Cœur d'Alenes mines. As an instance, Superintendent Fisher, of the Freddie Lee mine, recently took a sample of a 50-ton shipment, which gave a return of 127 ounces silver and 19 per cent. of lead! No other country produces so uniformly high grade." It may be mentioned that the "Freddie Lee" was the first mine opened in the Slocan district of the Kootenay country, and so late as last July.

This state of affairs explains the fact of the present extraordinary movement of mining men northward into Canada. It is reported that hundreds are crossing daily, although it is too soon to get into the mountains for prospecting, on account of the snow, and thousands are in the border cities waiting. A correspondent in Spokane (Wash.) of an Idaho mining paper says: "Here are prospective miners and prospectors of the great Slocan country, who have come from almost every State in the Union, and are using Spokane as a temporary halting place until tardily disappearing snows in that much loaded mineral country shall give them their opportunity, etc."

Altogether, the outlook is one of such activity as Canada never knew before in mining. An immense smelter, begun October, 1891, nears completion. Kaslo and other cities of about a year's growth are springing up like magic. Railroads are building into the Kootenay country, and local branches are being built to tap the mines. Distant though it be, we should watch this development with great interest, and trust that the east will feel the good effects of the genuine prosperity promised our sister Province.

Yours respectfully,

W. H. LYNCH.

Veins carrying antimony, mispickel, copper, lead and silver have been opened at Barrie, county Frontenac, and active mining operations will probably be developed shortly.

The following companies have been registered under the Foreign Companies Act. The Delath and Saint Paul Mining Co., B.C.; the Spokane and Great Northern Mining Co., B.C.; the Freddie Lee Mining Co., B.C.

The "Talc Company of Frontenac and Hastings, Limited," have applied for incorporation. Canadian talc is believed to be fully equal in softness of fibre and floating qualities to that found in the United States, which country has hitherto supplied all the paper manufactories here. A mill is about to be erected at Kingston, which, it is expected, will be in full working order by the beginning of July.

JOSEPH HIGGINS, who was the pioneer of the axe, scythe, and tool trade of Canada, died at Cote St. Paul, near Montreal, a few days since. It may be said that he established Cote St. Paul. For years he employed 300 hands there. He was a friend as well as employer. Many of his men he set up in life. Numbers he was the means of rescuing from the curse of strong drink, says the *IVistans*. He shared profits with his employees, and he lived to see those whom he benefited rivaling him in the business which he had made peculiarly his own. He was born in the Eastern Townships. Largely self-educated, he was a man of strong intellect, cheerful, an optimist, even in his old age. He loved fruit and bees, and he cultivated these in a beautiful garden, which for many years was his best delight. He leaves a wife and nine children.