

Corbin to be permitted to extend his system into this section, and if so will he be forced to commence construction as soon as he obtains his charter, or are we to wait the sweet convenience of the C.P.R.? Is the next session at Ottawa to give birth to another subsidy-hunting scandal, or will some legislation be passed of some practical benefit, not only to Boundary Creek, but the whole Dominion? In this respect it is safest to follow the old adage "don't prophesy until you know"; but the general impression is that the C.P.R. is on top and will have things its own way. In the meanwhile petitions are being circulated in all the towns asking the Dominion Government to grant Mr. Corbin's charter, for which he is applying, as any further delay in obtaining transportation for this section means serious loss to the whole community.

While harping on this string I may perhaps be allowed to draw attention to the effort that is being made by the Heinze organs (notably the *Rosland Miner*) to try to delude the public into believing that if the Corbin system were extended into this district the effect would be to draw trade away from Canada to the benefit of the States, because the natural place for the reduction of the Boundary Creek ores is Trail. As regards this assertion, I may state, without fear of contradiction by anyone really thoroughly acquainted with the mineral deposits of the Kettle River District, from Camp McKinney to Christina Lake, that the idea of carrying Boundary ores to Trail for treatment is absurd, and that no matter what railways are allowed to build into this section the ultimate result will be the establishment of local reduction works for the treatment of its ores. It is therefore sincerely to be hoped that neither Parliament nor the Local Legislature will be influenced when considering this question by the self-interested statements of hiring journals whose editors are totally unacquainted with the character of the ores of this district, even if the tin deity they worship is encouraged to extend his so-called railway system to Penticton. The people of Boundary Creek are quite capable of working out their own salvation.

In the meantime while plots and counter plots are being concocted in railway circles with a view to coralling the transportation of this region, and while nothing has so far resulted of any practical value, important mining deals are becoming a matter of every day occurrence. This in itself is encouraging, as showing that the mineral resources of Boundary Creek are of more than ordinary value.

In my next contribution I will try to give an account of some of the deals that have lately been made in the numerous camps.

Midway, B.C.

CON. CENTRATE.

OBITUARY.

The news of the tragic death, which occurred on the 5th inst. of Capt. Wm. Hall the Superintendent of the Le Roi mine, was received throughout the Province, but particularly in the Rosland and Boundary Creek districts, where he was well known and esteemed, with feelings of horror and regret. The deceased met his end by missing his footing while in the act of stepping from the west skip of the mine, his body being precipitated down the shaft, a distance of 700 feet. Capt. Hall was born in Ireland and was 63 years of age. He had a long and varied mining experience, and held many responsible positions in the great mines of the north-west.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. W. Laidon (Portland, Ore.)—There is no newspaper published in the district itself. The *Nelson Tribune* gives the information you seek.

A. B. H. (London)—Yes, a very promising investment indeed. "Pnyx" (Liverpool, Eng.)—Apply to the Hon. Forbes G. Vernon, Agent-General for British Columbia, London.

E. M. (Montreal)—There is not much demand for the stock locally, and the price you quote is an altogether fictitious valuation. These shares are now quoted in London at one shilling and seven pence. The prospects, however, of the company are fairly good and there is no reason why the properties which are now under development should not turn out well. The assayer whose report you forwarded is a reputable person and you can therefore quite rely on the correctness of his returns. From information, we believe reliable, received we learn that on the 19th of December the shaft on the principal claim was down 229 feet and since then an additional thirty feet has been sunk. The width of the pay streak in the foot wall is said to vary between eight and sixteen inches. The last shipment of ore to the Hall Mines smelter gave a net profit of \$22.00. It is the company's intention to erect a concentrator at this property in April.

M. A. Felman (Joliet, Ill.)—Yours is rather a tall order. You had better write to Mr. R. E. Gosnell, Provincial Librarian, Victoria, B.C., for a copy of his Year Book. This gives very full information on the subject. The Edmonton route is certainly not feasible; we certainly recommend you to start from either Victoria or Vancouver and go in by way of the Stickeen. The beginning of March is the time. We are afraid a "guide" would be an expensive luxury. Prices in any of the coast cities will compare favourably with those asked in the Washington towns and you save duty (thirty per cent.) by outfitting in B.C. No, frankly, if you have had, as you say, no experience of roughing it and are doing well at your own business, in one word "don't."

C. H. U. (Baltimore, M.D.)—There is undoubtedly good ground which cannot be worked on account of distance from available water supply in both the Cariboo and Omineca districts. Apply to a firm of mining brokers.

C. Haager (San Francisco)—A company has been registered under the title you name, but we have been unable to corroborate your statement that it is "pursuing mining with a benevolent purpose." You probably misunderstood your informant. He doubtless referred to the benevolence of the promoters. No, the concern is obviously a fraud.

G. (Victoria)—Thanks; we are always glad to be told that our efforts are appreciated. It's encouraging.

JANUARY DIVIDENDS.

A DIVIDEND of \$30,000 was declared by the Whitewater Company, on the 18th inst. The mine has thus far paid \$154,000.00 in dividends, to date.

Very excellent results were obtained from the Reco mine, near Sandon, last year, the dividends paid to shareholders amounting to a quarter of a million dollars. This record will, however, be exceeded during 1898, if present indications are to be trusted. Early this month the Company declared a dividend of \$100,000, and it is given out that a second dividend of the same amount will be declared within sixty days.

A dividend of \$50,000.00 was paid by the Le Roi M. & M. Co., on the 12th inst. This is the 22nd dividend since October, '95, and brings the total paid to the shareholders to well over seven hundred thousand dollars.

Although the stamp mill at the Fern mine, (situated near Hall's Siding, on the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway) has been in operation for little more than three months, the directors have been able to declare a dividend of \$10,000, which was payable on the 25th inst., and it is expected that the mine will continue to yield handsome profits to the shareholders. The Company is capitalized at \$200,000.00.

NOTES FROM SHOAL BAY.

THE camp is going ahead steadily and generally prospects are vastly improved. New strikes continue to be made all round the district from Knight's Inlet to the north, down to Cortez Island to the south. Two remarkable parallel leads which have been traced for seven or eight miles each across the river which enters Ramsay Arm from Deep Valley have lately had respectively twenty-three and twenty-one claims staked on them. A very rich strike of gray copper ore has lately been made near Deepwater Bay in Discovery Passage. Seven claims are located on a sixty-foot lime dyke, or formation, capped with calcite ledge matter, on which the Ajax is the lowest and shows the gray copper referred to. This carries over forty per cent. copper with good gold and silver values as well. The extensions show bornite and gray copper carbonites all along the six claims which are called B, C, D, E, and F. Jax and the Lightning.

Another somewhat similar proposition, the Dorothy Morton, is being opened by Messrs. Laing and Ryan in Fanny Bay, Phillips Arm, and is looking very well. This will also be treated by the cyanide process on the spot. Many other properties which assay high values in gold, silver and copper are awaiting the erection of a smelter at some convenient point on the coast.