

experts now claim to be naturally almost as rich as West Kootenay, suffers especially from lack of rail and smelting facilities, and the building of a railway through the Crow's Nest Pass is urgently needed. This railway would, moreover, open out a magnificent coal field, that should apparently be second in richness to none in the world. As to this intended line, general public opinion in British Columbia is all but unanimous. It asserts the urgent need of the railroad, but also declares that if the Dominion Government subsidizes or assists the C.P.R. or any other organization in making it, it should insist on regulating freight and passenger rates.

MINING PROPERTIES IN KOOTENAY.

A LETTER FROM NELSON.

Seeing that the major part of the news from British Columbia mines that has reached the daily papers of Eastern Canada, of late, has been about Rossland mines, or claims, or "prospects," it is of interest to receive something about properties in another part of the Kootenay district. We have pleasure, therefore, in presenting our readers with the following letter from a competent mining engineer who has been a year or so on the spot:—

"You have heard that my work has been confined to Nelson district all summer, so this letter cannot touch on the more interesting parts of the country. By more interesting, I mean the Slokan or Trail Creek districts, where more development has been done. Nelson has but few developed mines, and only three concerns are yielding. These are the Hall Mines, the Poorman, and the 49-Creek Hydraulic Works. The Hall Mines have been steady producers at the rate of about 125 tons per day, and have just installed a good compressor plant, and improved their facilities for handling the ore. At the smelter, too, they are increasing and improving the plant. The addition will be a brick stack 170 feet high, a water jacket furnace with a capacity of 200 tons, and two reverberatory furnaces to bring forward their matte to blister copper. This means that instead of shipping a matte of 45 to 50 per cent. copper and 250 to 300 ounces silver, their product will carry 96 per cent. copper, and 600 ounces silver. This, on the basis of the present smelting, but they propose to buy ore wherever procurable, and the product will, therefore, change in value, probably increasing in gold.

"At the Poorman, they have worked in a hand-to-mouth manner, and exhausted the ore between the adit level and the surface. This has been milled on the property, which boasts a ten-stamp mill, run by water-power from Eagle Creek. This mill supplies sufficient water for only a few months each year, during which time they mill the ore available, and for the balance of the year develop more. The ore, probably, produces about \$15 per ton in gold. If, as seems probable, a company takes hold of the property, the mine will be properly developed, and water brought in from a neighboring creek sufficient to run the mill all the year round.

"The 49-Creek Hydraulic Co. have worked without success for some years. This year they leased to a party of five Nova Scotians, all workers, who will probably make a very creditable clean-up, which will be well deserved. While water was high they put in from twelve to sixteen hours per day at hard work, most of them wet to the neck. Outside of these there are two properties which have small mills erected for testing the ore, but wholly useless for practical work. The Fern is the more developed of the two, and very little more would warrant the erection of a ten-stamp mill, which could be run by water power all the year round. The mill here is a two-stamp only. I used it this spring to test the ore, which has a fair value. Next is the White Water, on which they have a Huntingdon mill, which is wholly unsuitable to this class of ore, being a hard, white quartz. The ore from this mine will probably yield \$20 per ton in gold. The White Water also will probably be taken hold of by a company. Next year we have reason to hope that these three mines will be running with well-equipped plants.

"I have had in hand the development of the Starlight group, the Queen Victoria, and Homestake claims, but work sufficient has not as yet been done on these to prove them. They are all big, low grade properties, and are held under bond to Englishmen, represented here by Mr. Geo. Grant Francis.

"Other work has been done on various claims, under bond, or otherwise, but it has not developed much. As a rule in this district the veins are quartz, and so low in grade that it requires capital to handle them. On the whole, the short season has developed here but little that is new, though I think it has been serviceable in proving that there are many prospects within a radius of twenty miles of Nelson that are well worth looking into."

R. R. H.

Nelson, B.C., October 3rd, 1896.

COLD STORAGE IN HAMILTON.

Some suggestions worthy of attention are made in the course of a description of cold storage premises in Hamilton, in the *Spectator* of one day last week. For example, we quote the following:

"In cold storage the fruit can be held from a time when the market is overstocked until it recovers, thus preventing loss and waste. Chilled fruit can be shipped in refrigerator cars to distant markets which cannot now be reached at all. Niagara fruit growers will be able to take advantage of the excellent market for fruit in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which is now supplied by refrigerated fruit from California. Refrigerated cars will soon be run over all railway lines from all parts of the country with produce to cold storage warehouses, and to the markets and export centres."

But fruit is not the only nor even the principal item of Canadian produce to be treated by cold storage. Carcasses of beef or pork, dead poultry or game can be stored as soon as killed and sold when the market is favorable, provided storage rates are not excessive. Dairy-men may store butter, eggs, cheese, in quantity, and this should have an effect in lowering their price in winter or early spring. So much for the possibilities of the enterprise. The city council of Hamilton has done well to secure a cold-storage warehouse for that city, and we are told that the public-spirited efforts of Mr. F. H. Lamb have had much to do with the successful result. The eastern portion of the Wanzer building has been obtained for the company's purposes, and is likely to be ready next spring. Much needs to be done in the way of altering and rebuilding to make the place what it ought to be in order to secure the best results. It is estimated that for the east wing alone the cost will be about \$15,000. It will cost to fit up the east or Elgin street wing, and the main or Barton street building, about \$50,000, if, as is expected, these portions are afterwards added to the cold storage premises. The cooling of the warehouse is to be effected by circulating anhydrous ammonia at a temperature of 40 degrees below zero in pipes in the rooms, just as steam is circulated for heating purposes. But steam radiates heat, and ammonia absorbs it.

The company proposes to arrange for the running of refrigerator cars over the H., G. and B. and Hamilton Street Railway lines to the warehouse, and thence to boats and trains. These cars will carry the ripe fruit as soon as possible after picking to the warehouse.

TRADE MARKS FOR SHOE MANUFACTURERS.

The value of the trade mark is not fully appreciated by manufacturers. Recently some attention has been turned to this subject by manufacturers of footwear. The manufacturer who makes good shoes obtains through the trade mark the full benefit of his skill and care. The consumer who is satisfied with the style and the wearing and the fitting qualities of his shoes when in need of a new pair, will ask for shoes of the make that has given him good service. To those who have not previously worn shoes bearing the trade mark, there is a certain recommendation in the mark which indicates that the manufacturer is not ashamed of his goods. If they are faulty it is an announcement that he is prepared to bear the consequence, and if needs be, replace them. The trade mark involves considerable responsibility, but no more than the manufacturer of good reputation should be willing to bear. The trade mark should be attractive, simple and easily distinguished. Manufacturers complain that their best ideas are easily copied by the makers of cheaper goods. Although the trade mark cannot protect the ideas, it will serve to prevent any false pretences as to their make.

HIDES ABROAD.

The monthly circular of Messrs L. & W. Van De Velde, Antwerp, dated October 1st, reports: "The active demand which prevailed at the opening of the month has gradually died away and made room for a most decisive dullness. Prices of salted ox declined about $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound and close weak in all positions, but especially for medium and winter hair hides, and, to effect sales of consequence, substantial concessions would be needed. The reports from the other Continental markets are of a similar tenor, whilst the Liverpool advices indicate more activity with prices remarkably higher than those ruling here. Stocks are rather important; besides the new slaughters are likely to commence early, consequently the prospects are in favor of buyers. On the other hand the condition of the leather trade is improving, which, with the value of hides coming in accordance with that of leather, will probably bring more activity in our market before very long. Salted cow are relatively scarce, but not much wanted, and prices are barely maintained. Dry hides are neglected; quotations have gone down $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound.