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MINING NEWS.

A BIG SYNDICATE.

Montreal Capital Interested in Fifty Claims—In the Myers Creek District.

Spokane, Wash., March 8.

George B. Mechem, general manager of the Colville Reservation Syndicate, composed of Montreal capitalists, operating principally in the Myers Creek mining district, is in the city for a few days. Speaking of the mining outlook in Meyers Creek, he said that for the amount of development work which has been done there the showing made in the various properties equals any gold camp that he has ever seen, not excepting the famous gold camp of Cripple Creek. Mr. Mechem said: "My attention was called to this territory last September. I made a hurried examination of it, taking some forty odd samples, which I had assayed at Nelson, B. C. I was surprised to find that there was not one assay that ran as low as a trace in gold. Most of the samples were taken from the surface or from shafts not deeper, as a rule, than 10 feet, and the average value was about \$7 per ton in gold. This struck me as being exceptionally good and I employed a mining engineer from Rossland to visit the camp, and take about 50 samples. His general average coincided with those I took. This impressed me still further and I employed another mining engineer in Nelson, B. C., to give the camp a thorough inspection. Out of all the assays he took there were only two that ran lower than \$2 in gold, the general average being about the same as the ones previously taken by myself and others.

"A syndicate composed of Montreal capitalists was then organized for the purpose of acquiring interests in the camp, which we have done to the extent of some fifty odd properties. The Poland China group I consider is the best of the properties which we have purchased. We immediately started work after first prospecting to discover the trend and extent of the vein, and discovered the vein to be about 70 feet wide.

"A shaft was started on the foot-wall and at this time it has attained a depth of 80 feet. The assays run from \$1 to \$50 in gold per ton. This vein, which I consider to be one of the biggest, and probably will develop into one of the most valuable in the district, is undoubtedly the vein that extends southeasterly to the Review, on the line of which is the War Eagle, Wisconsin and other promising properties on Percy Mountain. The Review has been more fully developed than any of

the other properties, having a tunnel run in on the vein a distance of 400 feet with a winze sunk from the tunnel level 70 feet, and from the winze a drift has been run on the vein 180 feet.

"The extension of the Columbia & Western Railway, which I understand is now a settled fact, runs within two miles and a half of Chesaw and would place it within from two to four miles of all the properties in the camp. The camp is admirably located with reference to water and timber, two very essential elements to consider in a mining camp. Myers creek running north and south, and Mary Ann creek running east and west—either one of these would furnish sufficient water for all mining or milling purposes.

THE BORNITE BANK.

The manager of the Bornite Bank Gold Mining Company returned Friday night from a visit to the company's property, on Morning Mountain, near Nelson. The shaft is down 60 feet, and is still in the center of the ore body, neither wall being visible. The ore is improving in appearance with every foot sunk, inasmuch as it is getting more solid, but it is hardly to be anticipated that it will become any richer in value than the last assay, which went \$93.68 in gold and silver per ton. There are, however, strong indications of copper in the ore in the bottom of the shaft, and the manager has brought back with him several splendid samples, from which assays will be made for gold, silver and copper. All the ore being taken out of the shaft is being piled on the dump for shipment, and it is estimated that the dump now contains 100 tons.

A trial shipment will be made as soon as the snow permits the building of about a mile and a quarter of wagon road from the mine to the Athabasca wagon road which is only a four per cent. grade to the smelter. This will place the Bornite Bank within seven miles of the Nelson smelter. But it is the intention of the company to thoroughly develop the mine and instal machinery before commencing regular shipments.

The Bornite Bank is situated in an exceedingly rich mineral locality. The Venus and Juno and the Birdseye group are all close neighbors. The latter property has been bonded to an English syndicate for \$20,000, and \$8,000 of this has already been paid down, so that the deal is assured. On the Venus there is sufficient ore blocked out to keep a 10-stamp mill running for two years. The Athabasca is about a mile and a half north of the Bornite Bank and there are several other good properties in sight of it. Some of the best paying mines in Kootenay will be found to be located on Morning Mountain.

THE HUNGRYMAN ORE.

Work on the Hungryman group continues. This is the property which was recently taken over by the New Deer Park Mining Company. Mr. A. Lorne Becher, the general manager of this property, in speaking about it yesterday, said smelter tests were recently made of the two lots of the ore. One was sorted and the other was sent just as it was taken from the vein. Strange to relate, the sorted ore went less than the unsorted. The returns were as follows: Sorted ore, \$14.20 to the ton; unsorted ore, \$17.20. Work has been in progress on the property since February 26, and a comfortable cabin and a roomy powder house have been erected. A perpendicular shaft 7x5 feet has been started on the west of the vein. The vein dips into the hill. When the shaft has reached the fifty-foot level, a crosscut will be made to the vein, and it will be drifted on so as to determine its extent. The vein has been stripped for 150 feet,

and if it proves as rich at depth as it is on the surface the management will feel satisfied. The ore is pyrrhotite, with a little chalcopyrite mixed with it. There is, however, no appreciable quantity of copper or silver in it, the principal value being in gold. The management is highly elated over the smelter returns, and thinks that the Hungryman group is a valuable property.

LE ROI, WAR EAGLE, CENTRE STAR READY TO RESUME OPERATIONS.

Miners and Proprietors Anticipate Trouble in Rossland.

Rossland, B. C., March 12.—The Le Roi, War Eagle and Centro Star mines, which for a time have been completely shut down for repairs are now ready to resume operations. They have decided to use the contract system in future and pay by the quantity of work done instead of by the day. The men were informed of the new arrangements; contracts will be let from day to day until the mines are in full operation. The miners have so far refused to take contracts and did so today, pending consideration of the matter at the meeting.

Victoria, B. C., March 13.—An extraordinary condition of affairs at Rossland is indicated by the correspondence made public last evening between the Miners' Union and the Premier, the Hon. Joseph Martin. The charge made by the miners is, briefly, that twenty armed men of Victoria detective agency are patrolling some big Rossland properties although there have been no threats used in regard to these. The Premier has demanded an explanation from the magistrate why he swore in such a number of men. At the same time failing to notify the department of any trouble. Mr. Curtis, Minister of Mines, leaves in a day or two to investigate. He will also endeavor to bring about a reconciliation between the miners and the owners in reference to the eight-hour law.

LEDGE OF RICH ORE STRUCK IN THE NICKLE PLATE.

Rossland, B. C., March 13.—One of the most dubious propositions of the B.A.C. properties was the Nickle Plate, belonging to the East Le Roi Company, which is now being floated in London. But this selection of Ex-Governor MacKintosh has been proved by the events of the last twenty-four hours to have been an eminently judicious one. On Saturday night, near the shaft at the 500 foot level, was struck a rich ledge carrying very good values in gold and copper. The ore is now to be set up on the dump and it will probably assay anything from \$30 to \$100 to the ton. The ledge has only yet been touched upon and the width is not yet known, but there is certainly sufficient there to place the nickle plate on the list of shippers as soon as sufficient development work has been done. The strike thus made is the best that has been made upon the property, and is simply the fulfilment of the promise which the narrow stringers of high grade ore which were encountered in the higher levels in times past have given to the management of the property.

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