

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. T. (South Edmonton).—The Beatty Gold Mining & Dredging Co., operating below North Bend, on Boston Bar, and using a shovel or dipper dredge, succeeded in saving a sufficient quantity of gold to pay the shareholders a profit of \$7,000. Dredging, however, has not been heretofore attended with great success in B.C., but this may be largely attributed to the inexperience of those going into the undertaking, and also to the fault of the devices used. The bucket form of dredge is undoubtedly the best, and we would refer you to the article on this subject published in the March MINING RECORD for particulars. See the review in this number on "Van Wagenen's Manual of Hydraulic Mining."

S. M. (London, E.C.).—A quite baseless rumour. The mine is showing up in grand style. No; the head offices are at Kaslo.

T. H. H. (Clyde, N.Y.).—It will be some time at least before you can expect a dividend, we fear. You will be glad to hear, however, that a new management has taken charge, and possibly this may have a good effect. The mining properties in this district do not appear to be turning out very well at present, for while the surface ore may assay well, with depth the values seem to greatly depreciate. This has occurred in every instance where development work has been at all extensively carried on, but it is far too early to condemn the camp on this account, and it is quite possible that your investment will prove reasonably remunerative.

J. E. K. (Ashcroft, B.C.).—It is a question of dollars and cents—would Ashcroft support such an undertaking? We believe that the Ashcroft route is to be recommended to experienced prospectors who would explore on the way to Yukon the probably rich fields north of Cariboo, but you will surely admit that if a man is in a hurry to reach Dawson, the journey starting from the coast cities is the easiest and most direct.

R. A. H. (Hecla Works, Sheffield).—Certainly. You will find a further reference to the property in this issue.

D. H. (Leeds, England).—My dear sir, "When the devil was sick," etc. He is now recovering, so beware.

H. R. (Toronto).—You can save yourself a good deal of bother by outfitting on the coast. We doubt very much whether the difference in cost, taking into account freight charges, would be of much importance.

T. (Nelson).—Thanks very much for your letter. Yes, we noticed the articles to which you allude.

R. H. S. (London, Eng.).—1. Another dividend, it is announced, will be forthcoming shortly. 2-3. Both good investments. 4. Hardly developed sufficiently yet to be able to say.

STOCK MARKET.

THE stock market for B.C. mining shares has been active during the month of March, and quite a volume of business has been done by brokers.

In the Slocan District the most active stock has been Dardanelles, some large blocks having changed hands in the neighbourhood of twelve cents. There has also been considerable movement in Arlington shares, owing to very encouraging reports from the mine. Noble Five shares have been in demand, owing to a loan having been arranged so as to pay off the indebtedness to the bank, and it is understood the Company has nearly \$100,000 in its treasury for development. The shares of Rambler-Cariboo have also been enquired for, and it is reported this Company will pay another dividend in April.

The indications are that there will be a great demand this year for Slocan stocks, for the simple reason that for one dividend-paying mine in the Trail Creek district, there are over twenty in the Slocan, paying handsome profits to their lucky owners. A great many are not incorporated into joint stock companies.

In the Trail Creek district the most active stocks have been Deer Park, War Eagle, Le Roi, Josie, Eureka and Monte Cristo, and in the Nelson District the Fern has been the favourite.

In the coast mines stocks have been quiet, as the principal excitement in the coast cities is the Klondike, for which point steamers are leaving Victoria almost daily—sometimes three bound for the Yukon District in one day—carrying 400 to 500 passengers each, bound for the Yukon District in search of gold.

Although coast stocks have been quiet, there have been quite a number of sales of valuable copper properties on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, and mining engineers who

have examined the Coast, speak in the highest terms of the wonderful mineral resources which only require capital to develop the Coast into a scene of great activity and prosperity.

A. W. MORE.

The Colorado Iron Works Company of Denver, Colorado, made a shipment of five car-loads of machinery for the Randsburg Santa Fe Reduction Company, who are installing a fifty-stamp mill plant and a sampling mill at Barstow, California. The balance of the machinery will be shipped as soon as completed. They also made a shipment of a ten-stamp mill plant of machinery for Dr. Nelson, to be erected near Milford, Utah.

Mr. A. A. Davidson, of the Winchester Gold Mining Company, of Fairview, in the Osoyoos Division, has purchased a complete compressor plant from the Jencke Machine Company, of this city, at a cost of \$5,000. The plant consists of a four-drill compressor plant with four drills, a 30-horse power hoisting engine, with wire rope, and all the necessary paraphernalia. The plant was in stock in this city, and was put on board the cars Monday and started on its journey to Fairview.

A large new ore crusher is being installed in the Hall Mines smelter. New elevators will also be put in.

SHIPPING MINES.

ROSSLAND.

Following are the ore shipments from the mines adjacent to Rossland from January 1, to March 5, 1898:

Le Roi.....	13,009
War Eagle.....	505
Centre Star.....	150
Poorman.....	223
Iron Mask.....	623
Cliff.....	60
Velvet.....	350
Total.....	14,920

The ore shipments for the seven days from March 12 to March 19, inclusive, were as follows:

Le Roi.....	1,401
War Eagle.....	40
Iron Mask.....	80
Total.....	1,521

The shipments for the same period last year aggregated 1,230 tons.

BULLION AND MATTE.

	Pounds.	Value.
Hall Mines Smelter (Copper Matte).....	216,940	
Trail Smelter (Matte).....	203,013	
Gold Bullion.....		\$6,000

ORE.

	Tons.	Approximate Value.
Le Roi Mine, Rossland.....	3 920	
Iron Mask Mine, Rossland.....	160	
Poorman Mine, Rossland.....	140	
Pilot Bay Concentrator.....	120	
Whitewater Mine, Slocan.....	297	
Dardanelles Mine, Slocan.....	30	
Fern Mine, Nelson.....	42	
Black Diamond Mine, Ainsworth.....	20	
Kootenay Ore Co., Kaslo.....	87	
Montezuma Mine, Slocan.....	153	
Rambler Mine, Slocan.....	105	
Payne Mine, Slocan.....	740	
Idaho Mine, Slocan.....	119	
Queen Bess Mine, Slocan.....	196	
Comstock Mine, Slocan.....	36	
Vancouver Group, Slocan.....	40	
Ruth Mine, Slocan.....	255	
Last Chance Mine, Slocan.....	180	
Antoine Mine, Slocan.....	34	
Reco Mine, Slocan.....	80	
Ajax Mine, Slocan.....	34	
Total to March 19th.....	6,999	\$ 485,389
Total for January.....	9,500	1,197,489
Total for February.....	8,678	949,138