

RELATION OF LODES AND PLACERS.

It happens sometimes that placers are found where there are no lodes, and vice versa. And regarding this matter a recent mining authority says we hear it now frequently with reference to the new deposits of the Yukon. In this case it is almost entirely a matter of surmise, because there has not been yet any general exploration of lodes there, attention having been concentrated naturally upon the easily worked placers, and prospecting in the hills being difficult for various reasons. There may be workable veins of gold quartz above the placers and there may not. There are vague reports as to the existence of some, but it does not follow necessarily, either in the Yukon or elsewhere, that where there are placers there are workable lodes.

A placer deposit of gold or tin is a natural concentrator of mineral that existed in solid rock. The erosion of wind and water acting through immeasurable time has worn down the earth's surface in many places to a marvellous extent. In this kind of disintegration stable minerals like gold and cassiterite, which are of much greater specific gravity than their original matrix, were concentrated in water courses, just as they are now concentrated by men in sluicing. But nature has concentrated millions and millions of tons of material where man has to concentrate comparatively few.

The discovery of such a natural concentration in alluvial deposits, does not, however, imply that its source will be found, or if found, that it will be workable, because the original lode may have been eroded entirely, and therefore no longer in existence: the placer gold or tin may have come from a dissemination in a great mass of rock which it would never pay to mine, or from innumerable veinlets which were never exploitable; or the auriferous debris may have been carried far from its original source by glacial action, so that no connection between placer and lode can be established. It is not to be inferred from these suggestions, however, that there are not cases where placers have led directly to mother lodes. Numerous instances can be cited where they have done so, and vice versa. The conclusion is simply that no general rule can be laid down, and the existence of rich placers does not in itself imply the existence of rich, or even workable veins.

The placers of Breckenridge, Col., were discovered at the time of the Pike's Peak excitement (1859) and have been worked more or less ever since, producing a good many millions of gold. Their origin from lodes near by can be traced with reasonable certainty, and some of these lodes have been worked profitably, but the production of the lodes has not yet been a tithe of that of the placers. The same may be said of Alder and Last Chance gulches in Montana.—*Western Mining World*.

A CANADIAN CHAMBER OF MINES.

A meeting was held in London, England, last month, with the object of establishing a Canadian Chamber of Mines. Amongst those present were the Hon. Forbes G. Vernon, Agent-General for British Columbia; Mr. J. Howard, Agent-General for Nova Scotia; Mr. William Thompson, C.E.; Mr. Byron Johnstone, Chairman of the British Columbia Development Association; Mr. W. A. Townsend, Manager of the same Company; Mr. F. H. Harmon, Director of the Klondike Mining Transport and Trading Company; Mr. Robertson, Director of the Quesnelle Gold River Company; Col. J. Harris, Chairman of the proposed Chartered Hudson's Bay and Pacific Railway Company; Mr. F. A. Gillam, of the British Columbia Agency, and others. Letters of approval were received from Mr. J. H. Lukech, General Manager of the British Columbia Exploration, Limited; Colonel Cradock Hartopp, Mr. John McDonald, Mr. Cecil Hartridge, Major Flood Page, and others.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Jerome Dyer, reported that the resolutions framed at the last meeting of the Committee of the Canadian Chamber of Mines had been carried out. A representative board was in process of formation, and steps were being taken to incorporate the Chamber under license of the Board of Trade. The Canadian Government had been communicated with, as had also the Provincial Governments.

It was resolved that the Canadian Chamber should co-operate with the Australian Chamber of Mines in regard to the proposed Mining, Metallurgical and Machinery Exhibition, which it is proposed to hold in London in 1899. Mr. Seton Karr, M. P., was, it was stated, now in Canada, and would see the governments on the matter; and Mr. J. Lowles, M. P., and Sir Somers Vine were now in Australia representing the Australasian Chamber in interviewing the Australasian Governments regarding their support to the Exhibition.

NEW PROVINCIAL RESERVES.

The following are the particulars of the Glenora, Bennett Lake and Teslin Lake reserves, recently made by the Provincial Government, on the tardy setting out of which the *CRITIC* comments elsewhere:

1. A belt of land, five miles in width, extending back from the shore line of the whole of that portion of Bennett lake which lies within the Province.
2. A belt of land, five miles in width, extending back from the shore line of the whole of that portion of Teslin lake which lies within the Province.
3. A belt of land commencing at a point five miles below Glenora, on the Stickine river; thence up the said river to a point five miles above Telegraph creek, and having a width of five miles on each side of said river.