

ALBERNI GOLD FIELDS.

The New and Promising District Inspected by the Times' Correspondent.

Plenty of Gold Ore of Good Quality - The Need of Roads and Trails Felt.

Alberni, Aug. 28.-If the enthusiasm of prospectors is any criterion of the wealth of the aluvial deposits in this district, it is not too much to say that in gold has been found, and then in which gold has been found and experience of consider the standing and experience of the capitalists who have been interested in mining claims here, we must come to the conclusion that Alberni will come to the not distant future occupy an important place among the gold producing sections of this province.

China creek empties into the Alberni canal about six miles north of the town. It rises in the mountains about 3500 feet above the sea level and is eighteen miles in length. As early as twenty-five years ago, Professor Phillips, a mining expert from San Francisco, mentioned in a report that he here found gold in paying quantities. A few years later Gouge, from Victoria, mined at the head of China creek, in the vicinity of the present Golden Eagle claim, but owing to difficulties encountered from want of trails, and other reasons, his labors proved unprofitable. In the last decade Archie McLaughlin, an experienced miner, thoroughly prospected the creek and reported very favorably, but on active mining operations he started hunting and trapping, endeavoring to thus secure sufficient means to carry on the work. While on one of these hunting expeditions he died and his body now rests beneath a cedar tree near Ash Lake. Chinamen have during the last ten years washed gold out of China creek. They used rockers and a few sluices. It is estimated that they washed from \$30,000 to \$40,000 inside of five years. This success on the part of Chinamen attracted the attention of white men. They endeavored to locate the ledges from which the gold was washed down by the waters of the creek. The first to locate a claim on China creek was Frank McQuillan, who started on the Cataract, an hydraulic claim now owned by Messrs. Eberts & Taylor, Bainbridge, Aspland, Childs and Surman. Engineer P. Summerfield is at present taking levels for a flume for hydraulic purposes. Mr. Bainbridge has charge of a large force of men who are building a dam. The work is being pushed as rapidly as possible to have it completed before the creek rises. The benches along the creek are giving every indication of pay gravel. There are two other hydraulic claims below the Alberni China creek, one owned by Eberts & Taylor, known by the unpronounceable name of Pahl-Pahllican, an Indian term meaning "bright on top," the other being the Prince of Wales, owned by Messrs. Childs and McQuillan. No work is being done on these claims.

One of the most promising claims on China creek is the Duke of York, situated about five miles from the mouth, where 240 acres have been secured from the B. & N. R. Co. and a mining lease from the government for a period of five years, with the option of a renewal. This claim has been thoroughly prospected with very encouraging results, pay gravel having been found in all parts of the ground, and averaging forty cents to the cubic yard. Two of the shareholders are at present on the ground and superintending work, namely, Messrs. McQuillan and Childs. Associated with them are Messrs. Kirk, of Turner Beeton & Co., and Galletly, of the Bank of Montreal. Their intention is to put in an hydraulic plant that will wash 2000 cubic yards per day. To do this a ditch will be dug one and a half miles in length, having a fall of 150 feet. The work will be put in charge of Mr. Ferguson, a mining engineer of Vancouver, who will arrive on the ground in about two weeks. It will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible. The owners expect to complete it by July next. The estimated cost is from \$30,000 to \$35,000. China creek has been forced from its original course by the deposits from the mountain sides falling into the river bed and forming benches there, thus compelling the creek to take a different direction. All these benches contain gold, washed down from the ledges above. Your correspondent washed several pans of gravel taken from different places in these benches, and although he had no former experience in washing for gold, as high as forty colors to the pan was secured.

Here it might be stated that many men believe that the main leads are yet to be discovered, because the gold found in the creek is coarser than and different from the gold in the ledges already discovered. This fact is an incentive to prospectors, and the mountain sides along the headwaters of China creek and its tributaries, Mineral and McQuillan's creeks are being prospected for the ledges that produced the coarse gold already mentioned. Above the Duke of York is the Little Bucker, a hydraulic claim owned by Garrard of Nanaimo. The Nanaimo-Alberni Gold Mining Company are working the adjacent claim, the Constance. This company is composed of Nanaimo capitalists. Andrew Haslam, M. P., being president and W. K. Leigh, secretary-treasurer. W. H. London and John P. Bowditch, both from Lulu Island own the Lulu Island Hydraulic claim at the confluence of China and Mineral creeks. They have secured a lease for one mile along China creek from the provincial government. Early this spring, Mr. London, who is on the ground, made a cut across the China creek, his intention being to sluice with waters from Mineral Creek, but owing to the drying up of Mineral Creek the scheme was temporarily abandoned. He is at present sluicing along the banks of China creek and is well satisfied with the results. During the visit of your correspondent, Mr. London stripped the moss from the rocks in the river and washing a pan of this he secured almost a dollar's worth of coarse gold. Messrs. London and Bowditch will also put in a hydraulic plant, bringing the water from McQuillan's Falls, a distance of two miles, thereby securing pressure of 300 feet. There are several placer claims above the Lulu Island held by Victoria capitalists. At the head of China Creek are mineral claims of a very promising nature. The Golden Eagle was discovered by Archie McLaughlin and is now held by Henry Saunders of Victoria. It is bonded at one time to the Duke of Montrose, who spent fully \$5,000 in development, but owing to the work being placed in the hands of incompetent men nothing was accomplished. Montrose became discouraged and abandoned the mine. Specimens have assayed as high as \$690 to the ton, and there being a large quantity of quartz, it will yet prove valuable. The King Solomon was discovered by McQuillan. It is situated at the head of McQuillan creek, a small stream running into China creek at its source. It has assayed \$50 to the ton. Considerable money has been spent on this claim with encouraging results. A drawback to the developing of these and other claims is the want of trails. Prospectors have spent considerable money in making trails with as yet very little assistance from the government. During the last few years the government has secured considerable money from the miners of Alberni and they justly expect some return in the expenditure of money for trails to enable them to develop their properties. Robert Debeaux did considerable development work at a place on Mineral creek, but failing to consider it was included in the lease granted to Messrs. London & Bowditch. Mr. Debeaux will likely be settled in court. He has built a large two story house and being an excellent cook, trailmen can secure good accommodations with him. Just above is another placer claim owned and worked by Messrs. Gleason & Young. They are at present sinking a shaft and have it down a distance of 100 feet, and expect shortly to strike pay gravel. Mr. Gleason is an experienced miner, and has worked in mines in Colorado and Nevada. He is well pleased with his claim on Mineral creek. By climbing the mountain side to a distance of 3,500 feet above the sea level, one reaches the quartz claims on Mineral creek. They are all of a similar nature and have assayed from \$4 to 1,000 per ton. Four claims, namely the Alberni, Chicago, Victoria and Waspire, are at present held and worked by the Mineral Creek Gold Mining Company, the principal shareholder being Police Magistrate H. A. Simpson of Nanaimo. Henry Saunders, E. J. Saunders, of Victoria, Mrs. Catharine Greenwood, and B. H. John, of Lands and Works department, recorded these claims. They will use the courts to recover possession. The Mineral Creek Gold Mining Company is at present shipping ore to Tacoma, from the Alberni. The Quartz is very rich, having assayed as high as \$1,000. Should the Mineral Creek Company win the case, they intend to bring in a stamp mill. The quartz being free milling, this venture will in all probability prove successful.

The Missing Link claim, recently located by Mike Comerford, lies above the Alberni and gives promise of being very rich. The assays from this claim run from \$200 to \$500. Mr. G. Brown, formerly of Victoria, has secured an interest in this claim. He is also interested in several other claims on Mineral Creek, the Champion, on which he is now working, being the most important. Having assayed as high as \$800. G. O. Jones has done considerable work on the Ace of Spades on the McLaughlin range, one mile west of Alberni. It assays from \$7 to \$27. Gold Commissioner Thomas Fletcher, ex-M.P.P., owns the Dulce Domain, George Heath, of Alberni, the Chesnut Valley, Land and Smith the Lily. Besides these are several other claims staked off on Mineral creek; in fact the enthusiasm of prospectors has retarded the progress of the prospectors. Claims have been secured in the interests of outside parties, who are holding them with the intention of selling, thus limiting the area in which the prospectors can work. The pack train to the mines is in charge of James Pinkerton. The trail is very steep, going right up the mountain. Mr. Pinkerton has been able to keep the mines well supplied and has taken out all the ore that has been offered.

Several claims have also been taken up on Granite creek, which empties into the Alberni canal about nine miles from Alberni. M. A. Ward, of the Arlington hotel, and Wm. Poole are interested in the Star of the West and the Starlight. The Hon. D. W. Higgins and Captain Olive Phillips Woolley have bought interests in both these claims, and are doing considerable work on them in the fall. The Starlight should prove a valuable property, as there is a seven foot ledge and gold can be seen across the face of it with the naked eye. It has assayed as high as \$30 to the ton. The Star of the East, owned by M. M. Sarsent, of the Alberni Hotel, and the Nevada, owned by George Brown, are also on Granite creek.

Considerable excitement has been caused by the finding of quartz of peculiar formation on Coleman creek, 14 miles from Alberni. The assays from this quartz run from \$4 to \$500. There is an unlimited quantity of it showing on the entire face of the mountain, and even should the assay prove small, the quartz is so easily worked that it should prove very profitable. Messrs. McAllister, Walter Saul and G. A. Huff are interested in claims on this creek. Gold ore has also been found at Spruce Lake that has assayed \$30 to the ton. From this it can be seen that the assays show the gold to be in paying quantities, and having been found as far down as the Nitrat, there is a field that should satisfy the wishes of the most enthusiastic gold seekers. I must not close without drawing attention to the assistance rendered to prospectors by F. P. Saunders, who for a long time, patiently assayed their findings, thus enabling them to know the value of their discoveries without a waste of time and money. The Dunsnons have a stamp mill at Victoria which they will send to Alberni by the Maude. It will be taken into Mineral Creek in sections and set up there, the capitalists could be induced to take an interest in the mines so that they may be developed, if roads were built so that the quartz could be cheaply and conveniently shipped, or if a stamp mill was placed on the ground that the gold could be extracted there, then without a doubt the mines would not only prove

profitable to the owners but would be found of such extent that they will affect considerably the prosperity of the entire province. D. Robs., Times Travelling Correspondent.

CONGREGATION EMANUEL. Officers Elected for the Ensuing Year - A New Cemetery. At their annual meeting the congregation of Temple Emanuel, elected officers for the ensuing year as follows: J. Isaac, president; E. Frank, vice-president; Gus Leiser, treasurer, and F. Landsberg, secretary. I. Braverman, H. Freeman, S. M. Hartman and H. Bornstein were appointed a board of trustees. The secretary was requested to send letters of condolence to the relatives of the late H. A. Levin. Arrangements were made for the New Year's celebration on September 18th. It was decided to invite Miss Rachael Frank, of Oakland, Cal., to lecture on Judaism on that evening. In case she cannot attend the senior members of the congregation will conduct the services. The congregation having decided to have a new cemetery, a committee of five was appointed to purchase three acres of land near the Ross Bay cemetery from Messrs. Lee & Fraser. The dead now buried in the cemetery on the Cedar Hill road will be removed to the new cemetery by the congregation, except in cases where the remains are claimed by relatives and removed by them. Some of the bodies will be taken to other cities by relatives. The new cemetery will be taken possession of almost immediately and the old one offered for sale.

THE CHILDREN'S DAY. Committees from the School Board and Agricultural Society Plan for It. School Trustees Mrs. Grant, Lovell and Glover, acting as a committee, conferred yesterday with Messrs. N. Shakespeare and G. H. Brown, a committee from the agricultural association, in regard to the arrangement for children's day - Wednesday, September 18 - at the fair. It was decided to have the first six divisions of the various schools meet at Central School at 1 o'clock, where they will form in procession and march to the grounds headed by a band. The younger children will not be required to march with the older children, but may go with their parents. Upon the arrival of the children the following programme will be carried out under direction of Mr. St. Clair: Military drill, manoeuvres and march past by six divisions of Boys' Central; four divisions South Park; four divisions North Ward; and one division of Victoria West school, in all about 1000 boys. This will be followed by dumb bell exercise to music by the same detachment. Then come sports for the children, the programme being - 120 yards race, boys under ten years; one hundred yard dash, boys under 15 years; 50 yards dash, boys under 8; sack race, boys under 15; quarter mile race, boys under 15; mile race, boys under 15, and bicycle race, half-mile, handicapped. The two lower divisions will be permitted to bring their own presents, and will admit their mothers to the grounds. All the upper divisions are required to take part in the procession.

SCOTTISH GREETING. Reception to the Governor-General and the Countess of Aberdeen. His Excellency the Governor-General and Countess of Aberdeen were given a reception, last evening by the members of the Sir William Wallace Society and their lady friends. Many of the members, including Pipers Robertson, Munro and Macdonald, were in full highland dress, and the occasion was a very pleasant one. The vice-regal party consisted of Lord and Lady Aberdeen, Lord Haddo, Lieut.-Col. Prior, A. D. C., Mr. Munro Ferguson, A. D. C., Dr. Gibson, Miss Wetherman, Dr. Wellton, Messrs. James and John Macdonald, the Dominion Fisheries Commissioner, and others. They were met at the door by Chief Russell, Past Chief R. H. Jameson, Chief-Hauna, and Secretaries A. Maxwell Muir and A. B. Fraser. Secretary Muir read the following address of welcome: My friends, we are glad to see you here. We, the officers and members of the Sir William Wallace Society, beg leave to respectfully greet you and to welcome you to our rooms, for it is with feelings of pride and satisfaction that we look back to our first meeting, your Excellency nearly a year ago. We welcome you with even greater pleasure on this occasion because we know that you are here to appreciate the scope of our institution, and being a Scotsman and not unmindful of the history and traditions of our country, and you are entering into the spirit of our national organization, and we thank you for your presence, for all Scotsmen of his day, did most to consolidate and maintain our nationality. We wish you many days of happiness and prosperity in your life, and we are proud of your presence with us tonight, and we thank you both heartily for the interest shown in our society. We wish you many days of happiness and prosperity in your life, and we are proud of your presence with us tonight, and we thank you both heartily for the interest shown in our society. We wish you many days of happiness and prosperity in your life, and we are proud of your presence with us tonight, and we thank you both heartily for the interest shown in our society.

WHEREABOUTS OF PREVOST. He Was a Passenger to Duncan's Station on the Sunday Morning Train. Agitation for the Complete Reorganization of the Registrar's Office. It has now been ascertained for a certainty that J. C. Prevost went to Duncan's Station on last Sunday morning's train. Gentlemen who knew him well saw him and were talking to him, but they cannot say just where he left the train, although he was not noticed after passing Duncan's. The inference is that he went up to see his family, who have been spending the summer in the district. He may still be there, although the probability is that he engaged an Indian and was taken across the gulf in a canoe. There is a feeling that the matter should have been placed in the hands of the police several days before it was. Deputy Sheriff Siddall was looking for Prevost on Friday evening, and although the latter must have been in the city all day Saturday, he could not find him. Had the matter been placed in the hands of the police as soon as the Deputy Sheriff found that his man was missing, it would have been next to impossible for Prevost to escape. He certainly would not have been able to leave town in the open and a simple manner than he did. However, if he is still on the island the police will no doubt have him before many days, although he has more than likely taken advantage of his three days' start to get out of their way. A reward of \$250 has been offered by the provincial police for the arrest of Prevost, the charge being embezzlement. The description of him given is as follows: "Native of England; good looking; age about 35 years; height about 5 feet 8 inches; somewhat corpulent; weight about 175 pounds; dark complexion; blue eyes, rather bloodshot; thick fair hair streaked with grey, inclined to be curly, parted in the middle and usually worn long; light colored side whiskers and moustache, also streaked with grey; wore gold cable watch chain with anchor charm attached; tweed clothing and had felt hat. Disappeared from Victoria 23rd inst." An Auditor Goepel is busy at work on the matter, but nothing has yet been made public as to their condition. One of the chief topics of conversation in legal circles is the reorganization of the registrar's office of the Supreme Court. Business, so far as the registrar was concerned, was practically at a standstill, he worked as and when he pleased, added to which, owing to the non-professional knowledge of the registrar, frequent applications to a judge were necessary to decide small points in practice on examinations and on costs, which, rightly or wrongly, should have been decided by the registrar, frequent applications to a judge were necessary to decide small points in practice on examinations and on costs, which, rightly or wrongly, should have been decided by the registrar, frequent applications to a judge were necessary to decide small points in practice on examinations and on costs, which, rightly or wrongly, should have been decided by the registrar.

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