

Current Mining News.

Contributions from any part of British Columbia and the mining districts of a reliable nature will be published in these columns, and we request that mining men write us about the progress of the mines of their district. We desire to publish all mining news.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN CORPORATION AND THE LE ROI MINE.

Col. W. W. D. Turner, president of the Le Roi company, strongly denies the statement of the British American Corporation's directors that it has an option on the Le Roi mine. No company has any such option, though the owners of the Le Roi are open to consider offers, though certain not to sell for less than \$5,000,000. So says the Colonel.

THE FERN MINE.

The bullion obtained from the second clean-up at this partly free-milling gold mine of the Nelson district runs to the satisfactory value of \$13,200, the ore treated being of comparatively low grade. The first clean-up realized \$15,145. The second clean-up was the result of a 30 days' run of the 10-stamp mill, which is now again at work. The Fern directors state also that in the lower tunnel a chute of rich shipping ore, running to \$125 a ton and upwards, has just been struck. Ten more stamps will be put in without delay.

QUITE A CURIOSITY.

As handsome a mounted deer head as one usually sees is now on exhibition in the show window at the City Drug Store. It is the property of Arthur Noel. The deer from which this head was taken was killed by Mr. Noel in the mountains of British Columbia, and is known as the mule or black-tail deer. This one weighed 510 pounds. Mr. Noel says they are never seen but up in the mountains. The horns on this head has 22 points, and differs considerably from the horns and head of the Wisconsin deer.—Merrill News.

PLATINUM AND IRIIDIUM.

Workers of British Columbia placer mines will do well to send to the Provincial Mineralogist at Victoria, for assay, samples of the black or gray sand found in their workings, which may in some cases contain valuable deposits of platinum or iridium—rare metals of high value, the presence of which in dull-looking sand often escapes notice. Iridium is in particular worth more than gold. No charge will be made for the test, which may perchance lead to valuable discoveries of the two metals now sought, each of which is usually found in juxtaposition with flour gold.

THE GALENA MINES.

It is stated that a concentrator will shortly be erected at these mines and the present working force increased, there being a somewhat better showing of ore as a result of a recent strike. But the fact remains that the owning company can only by something approaching the miraculous, earn decent dividends on its absurdly inflated capital. British investors will therefore be wise if they continue to leave the stock in this company largely in the hands of the promoters and underwriters. It is abundantly clear that these last are, through the press of the Slocan district, seeking to boom the mine for more than it is worth, in order no doubt to unload on the British public. The *Silvertonian*, for example, contains in a recent issue so highly eulogistic an article on the Galena Mines, Limited, and its management, that the reader would from it imagine, that there seldom or ever was so skilful and public spirited an undertaking. We may shortly expect to learn that this obviously inspired puff has been quoted at some meeting of the company in proof of the alleged favor with which local opinion regards one of the worst British Columbia flotations yet made in London.

THE HALL MINES SMELTER.

The 250-ton blast furnace at this smelter was again blown in on New Year's day, when the four roosters and reverberatory furnaces were also fired. The firing of a lead furnace will follow shortly, and treat a goodly amount of lead-bearing ore from the Slocan country generally, and, in particular, from the Two Friends, Evening Star, Idaho and Bullion mines. Some 1,500 tons of the Silver King's ore are also on hand, and dry ores are coming in steadily from the Athabasca and several other claims on Toad mountain. Everything points to a busy and prosperous year for the Hall Mines, Limited, in connection alike with its mining at the Silver King and smelting operations at the great Nelson works.

THE JOSIE MINE.

It is stated that since the purchase of this noted Rossland mine the broken ledge on this mine has been recovered in the east drift of the 300-foot level, with ore results of \$32 in gold, plus 6 per cent copper: A good thing this, if fully authenticated by early results—for the purchasing company.

NATIVE COPPER AT KAMLOOPS.

It is stated that talcose rock containing a very large percentage of native copper is now being got out on the Bonanza-Pothooks claims at Coal Hill, near Kamloops, in the course of development work that is now at an early stage. There is accordingly much local satisfaction.