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British Columbia Mining Critic.

"I am Nothing, if Not Critical."—Shakespeare.

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NOTICES.

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EDITORIAL.

THE PROVINCIAL MINING REPORT.

The annual report of the Provincial Ministry of Mines for 1897 reflects the greatest credit upon its indefatigable compiler, Mr. Wm. A. Carlyle, the Provincial Mineralogist. Mr. Carlyle's report is notable in many respects, but especially remarkable for its studied moderation, which at one and the same time evidences the compiler's scrupulous care to ensure all attainable accuracy, and shows that our Provincial mineralogist—who vacates office early in April—has a thorough mastery of his subject. Hence it will continually be noted that he pays no heed to merely boom reports spread about various districts included in the report, and discredits very considerably by the clearest inference, if not always by direct words, certain superficial tests and other indications of ore values, when such tests and indications, as often happens, are by no means conclusive as to the average value of a precious-metal deposit. Thus Mr. Carlyle, for example, does his utmost to discredit a

very common and delusive practice of owners and promoters interested in free-milling gold properties, who too usually make much of a series of assays of carefully selected ore specimens, although they sometimes seek to make their test more apparently conclusive by striking an average of a number of such assays. As Mr. Carlyle, however, says, "to everyone familiar with such gold quartz ores it is known that fire assays on this class of material are almost valueless, in that a series of assays made of the same sample is very likely to give most variant results, and it is very difficult thus to determine the average values of the ore in such a lead. It is very easy to get wonderful returns from picked samples so as to astonish the inexperienced public, who do not know that any assay may not always be true but misleading, and such assays are many times paraded to tempt purchasers.

"The system of averaging a lot of assays which may run from zero to high values is both erroneous in principle and pernicious, as, while zero assays may be near the value of the ore, the chanced high returns from picked or exceptionally good samples will be sure to give high but utterly fictitious results. This method of taking the average of the assays' values from a number of samples from a vein is often pursued, but not by men experienced in valuing gold quartz, and it is an old story that mill returns are so many times disappointingly lower than those so-called average assays.

"Hence assays of quartz with free gold should be accepted with very great caution, it being kept in mind that such assays may only serve to demonstrate the presence of gold in the rock, but not what values the mill

may return when large lots are treated."

The above is but one of many pregnant warnings and suggestions to mining investors and would-be investors contained in the Provincial Mineralogist's report, to which we cannot even begin to do justice in one issue of the MINING CRITIC, and to which, therefore, we shall hereafter frequently recur for official mining information of special value, because carefully and, above all, impartially compiled by a skillful specialist. However, leaving for consideration in a later issue many other noteworthy points of a lengthy report, it remains for us now to note the generally encouraging details which it gives as to the metal production of the Province for 1897, as compared with the like statistics for the previous year. The figures show that the mineral production of British Columbia last year amounted to a value of \$10,455,268, a gain of over 40 per cent. on 1896, when the output was worth but \$7,507,956. The gain was mainly due to metalliferous mining, since the collieries return of the coal and coke output, quoted elsewhere, show but a slight increase—less than 2 per cent.—on the worth of the yield. The gold, silver, copper and lead output of West Kootenay is responsible for the bulk of the satisfactory increase in value of the British Columbia metal yield of 1897, the output of West Kootenay having grown from \$4,002,735 in 1896 to \$6,765,703 last year, notwithstanding the effects of silver depreciation on mining in such districts as the Slocan. The results of gold mining in old Cariboo were meanwhile a little disappointing, as a result largely of an exceptionally droughty season, impairing hydraulic mining on claims not yet possessed of all their intended water-power equipment. Thus the gold yield of Cariboo fell from \$384,050 to \$325,000, but it is practically certain that with the steady progress of hydraulic mining now being made, the yield of 1898 should easily pass the record of 1896, although even the present year must still be reckoned a period in many cases of only inchoate or at least imperfect development of even the best of the great gold gravel claims of Cariboo. This notwithstanding, a big

expansion of the yield of Cariboo is by no means impossible this year, as a result of the extending operations of the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic and other noted mines.

Cassiar, now certain to be more systematically explored, and likely soon to become once more a large gold producer as a result of skillful working with improved modern mining appliances, yielded gold worth \$37,060 in 1897, which, though a small output, was nearly double the output of 1896, estimated at \$21,000. In East Kootenay, where great things will shortly happen, as also in Lillooet, the results of the work of 1897 showed little advance on the figures of 1896, the value of the output of East Kootenay rising from \$154,427 to \$163,796, and that of Lillooet from \$33,665 to \$39,840. In Yale, too, largely as a result of as yet incomplete rail communication, the value of a yield which was mainly gold, only grew from \$206,078 to \$226,762. Here again the immediate future promises much, especially as regards the copper deposits of the Boundary district. Last and, at present, least—but not likely so long to remain—the gold, silver and copper yield of other Provincial districts, including the North Coast, Texada Island and Alberni, accounted for a value of \$9,390, which should assuredly, even in 1898, be multiplied many times, with the coming considerable development of many highly promising gold, silver and copper properties on Texada Island, at Alberni, and the Phillips Arm and Northern Coast districts, respectively. Hence as West Kootenay continues steadily to increase its output of the precious metals and copper and lead, and all the other mine districts of the Province are certain to show increases of yield this year, though in some cases their gains may be less phenomenal, we may safely anticipate that a British Columbian annual metal output, valued at \$4,819,955 in 1896, and at \$7,567,551 in 1897, will ere the close of the present year, cause our Province easily to pass the \$10,000,000 limit, whilst it may well happen that considerably more even than this may be accomplished. Thus our mining progress is, if not so startlingly rapid as to be pronounced

phenomenal, being made on lines that are sure and enduring, and withal by no means slow.

WARNING NOTES.

Joaquin Miller, who has recently written in a much more sober-minded style about the Yukon, sounds several useful notes of warning in a recent letter to the San Francisco Examiner. Thus he states, that without the slightest evidence of the existence of gold lodes—the ground being covered with frozen muck or glacier for a depth of from five to fifty feet—many hundreds of quartz claims have lately been located and registered in the Dawson district, with a view to sale either to foolish tenderfeet or else to wily promoters, who will, by means of unproved and probably worthless claims thus acquired, float bogus companies in the United States and England. None but a fool will buy a quartz claim in the Yukon, unless first proved on the best and most trustworthy authority to be not only gold productive, but rich almost beyond precedent. In such a land as the Yukon a gold quartz claim must be of at least five times the average value of a like profitably workable claim elsewhere, having regard to the extreme cost of labor and machinery, and the great difficulty of mine development.

Another point made by Mr. Miller, and well worth noting by would-be Yukoners, has been made before, but cannot be too often repeated. It is that Dawson, being built on a pestilential mudswamp, is, to quote Mr. Miller, "going to be the sickliest place in spring you ever heard of." The sooner, therefore, those now in Dawson, when and where able, spread themselves further around, the better. The fewer among others who enter there to live, the better also, in every way, as the available ground near Dawson has practically all been taken up long since. There will assuredly be terrible trouble, distress and sickness in the Yukon shortly, unless to Dawson City there be added several other fairly large mine camps, that will take away many of the superfluous temporary residents of the town on the dismal swamp. It is already clear to men who know the Yukon

well, because they have long been compelled to live in that land under very hard conditions, that there is little chance of a Canadian railroad now reaching the headwaters of the Yukon sufficiently early in autumn, to enable the getting in of next winter's supplies. Hence Captain Constantine, the chief of the mounted police at Dawson, has already ordered from the Alaska Commercial Company, for inshipment via St. Michaels, the next winter's supplies for his company of 100 men. Captain Constantine sees serious difficulties in the way of next winter's provisioning of a big host of Yukoners, and it is already clear that if 100,000 or more people enter the country shortly—half of whom will probably only carry with them supplies for a few months—there must of necessity be again brought about a big enforced winter exodus of those whose rations are "running out."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Victoria Times is to be commended highly for seeking to ascertain and tell the truth, cost what it may, concerning the Yukon passes, even if the result be to show that the Stickine route is for the present almost impassable, though travel along it will be fairly easy in a month, when navigation opens. Difficult and dangerous are also now the two other leading routes, with trails breaking up, and, in addition, completely blocked at some early points on the way north by thousands of tons of goods, and a vast horde of dogs, horses and human beings. Those who can, will wisely wait at least a fortnight, yet, ere attempting their, in any case, arduous journey towards Dawson, and the warnings of the Victoria Times may well have saved from much suffering, and it may be even death, many a previously uninformed northern gold-seeker. What though revelation of the truth may postpone for a period, or even prevent, the making of transport or other arrangements, and thus retard or hinder profit earning on the part of some amongst us. Our trade should rest on truth, and require no dependence upon the suppression of awkward or unpleasant facts that should be known in

the interests of humanity.

The Victoria Times is, however, in one point mistaken. It is by no means the only issue in the Province that has striven to tell the truth about the Yukon, and done its best to "warn off" the unfit. Several British Columbia papers have throughout done this, the MINING CRITIC being not the least prominent in this respect, as a perusal of our columns, week by week, will plainly show. We have throughout maintained what we still believe, that the permanent possibilities of the frozen Yukon do not begin to compare with those of our own more happily situated Province. The world will learn this soon, probably even before the leaves fall in autumn.

THE ADVANTAGES OF A CHAMBER OF MINES.

[Communicated.]

As there are still many inquiries made, regarding the *raison d'être* of a Chamber of Mines, it may be as well briefly to state a few of the advantages resulting from such an institution. A Chamber of Mines issues detailed reports as to the output and operations of mines within the country it concerns, which carry almost the weight of government statements. Thus, the reports of the Westralian Chamber of Mines are published extensively and regularly in the London (Eng.) mining press. The South African Chamber of Mines, the strongest Chamber of the kind in the world, similarly publishes, in England and elsewhere, information as to the South African mines. The British Columbia Chamber will adopt a like course, and should carry as much weight in speaking of the mines of British Columbia, as other Chambers carry in speaking of the mines of their respective countries.

Experience has shown that a Chamber of Mines can get, as a rule, later information than can a government over a wide stretch of country at a moderate cost, defrayed from funds supplied by voluntary subscriptions, which a government cannot secure. Governments have for these and other reasons countenanced and encouraged mining chambers in [the different mining countries which show a spirit of progress, and which are under more or less constitutional forms of

rule. In short, to such an extent does a Mining Chamber save expense and labor to a government that it may be regarded as in some sort a servant of the government, with certain well defined work delegated to it on behalf of the authorities and public. There is also another aspect of the matter, namely, that if the government did the work of a Mining Chamber, the whole public would probably have to contribute more or less towards the expenses of the work, whereas such portion of the public as is financially interested in mining, alone defrays the expenses of a Chamber's work.

The character and weight of the British Columbia Chamber will at once be understood, when it is mentioned that among the earliest members are the Minister of Mines, the Hon. Col. Baker, M. P. P., Mr. Barclay Bonthrone of the British Columbia Agency, Mr. Pellew Harvey, F. C. S. etc., Dr. Selwyn, and others of quite exceptional mining prominence. Such names would of themselves form a guarantee of good management, energy and efficiency, in giving due publicity to the merits of British Columbia as a mining country.

It is to the several Chambers of Mines that the English press invariably applies for authentic information on mining matters; and almost as invariably is it to the local Chamber of Mines that Australian and South African mining men refer, when coming to another mining country for the purpose of investing.

It is thus to the advantage of the Province that we should have an efficient Mining Chamber, to the advantage of every bona fide mine and mining company to have its representative in the Chamber, and to the advantage of every shareholder in a Provincial mine to secure from the Chamber, as issued, the collective reports and general mining information of the Province.

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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.

DRAGON CREEK.

The Lang company is here fitting up the necessary appliances for a busy season's hydraulicking, promising returns having lately been secured by individual placer miners working at points along the creek.

THE FERN.

The cyanide plant is now being put in at this Nelson mine. It will have a capacity of at least fifty tons a day. Meanwhile development work proceeds satisfactorily, and a car of concentrates, lately shipped to Tacoma, yielded \$60.78 a ton.

A WAR EAGLE ESTIMATE.

Mr. T. G. Blackstock, a principal owner of War Eagle stock, estimates that when the new plant arrives the War Eagle's output will equal that of the Le Roi, and run to between 1,200 and 1,400 tons a week. He calculates that the War Eagle ore will supply about three-fifths of the Trail smelter's ore requirements.

THE GOLDEN CACHE.

Mr. Wm. Mackinnon, the well-known hydraulic engineer, has been appointed consulting engineer to the company and charged with the superintendence of the construction of the dam, waterways, electric powerhouse building, and plant installation. Special care will be taken with the dam construction, as upon its success will depend the mine's supply of motive power.

THE RUTH MINES.

The Ruth Mines, Limited, one of the few English companies that have yet invested in Slovan mines under fairly reasonable conditions, has declared a dividend of three shillings a share and carried forward £7,000 out of profits to date of £21,000. There has recently been a further issue of 15,000 shares, which were eagerly sought by the company's stockholders.

NORTH COAST PROPERTIES.

The mines of the Phillips Arm and adjacent districts are showing more promisingly than ever. The Dorothy Morton and Blue Bells properties are already in a position for the putting up of good working and reduction plants, and owners of other claims in the district are confident of an early "boom" as a result of the generally good showing of the lodes. Mr. J. Cobeldick has started thirteen men to work on his property in Estero Basin, and they are making good headway, although considerably impeded by a big snowslide.

The owners of the Ajax group are doing more work on the properties, and have now exposed sixty-five feet on the lead, over thirty feet of which results from tunneling work. The ore will for the present be placed on the dump for shipment later in spring.

AROUND ROSSLAND.

The shaft in Sunset No. 2 has reached 210 feet. This shaft was started in the tunnel and is now 100 feet below it. A drift is being run eastward from the bottom of the shaft in the hope of encountering a body of ore thought to be not far away, as the indications are strong.

The Evening Star is now among the working mines of Rossland. Mr. Roy Clark, who is in charge of the property, has a force of men on the upper tunnel. He says they are in ore and making a good showing. There has been a great deal of work done on this property from time to time, but it has proved almost useless, so it is now proposed to go at it in a more systematic manner.

Mr. Otto Johnson reports that he has sold the Sadie claim on Sheep creek to a British syndicate for \$20,000. Work on the property is to commence within two weeks, and a force of at least six men must be employed. The sum of \$5,000 is to be paid on May 2nd, and the remainder within a year. The Sadie was one of the first locations made on Sheep creek, having been recorded nearly three years since.

THE EAST KOOTENAY PLACERS.

It is now certain that there will this season be much new work done on the gold gravels of Wild Horse creek, Palmer's bar, Tracy creek, Bull river and other auriferous streams of East Kootenay. These were roughly surface exploited by placer miners "in the sixties," but experts are assured that with the use of modern hydraulic machinery and other appliances far more gold is capable of being got out during a number of years to come, than was ever extracted by the rough and ready shovel, pan and flume methods of the placer worker of well nigh forty years ago. Capitalists are now taking up leases of the more likely placer ground of East Kootenay, which may yet compete more or less successfully with old Cariboo in this branch of gold mining. A great impetus is afforded this work in East Kootenay by the incoming of the Crows' Nest railroad, which will soon have quite a number of connecting side lines in the best mine districts.

WHAT GRAND FORKS THINKS.

The people of Grand Forks declare that they have even now little faith in the prospect of the early building of the Boundary district portion of the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern Railway. The Grand Forks Miner thereabout observes that "railways are not built on jawbone." But if, as surmised, the C. P. R. is more or less behind the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern project, through the well-known contractors who own controlling interests in the undertaking, the line certainly will be built soon. Meanwhile the people of the Boundary country strongly favor the Kettle River Valley Railway enterprise of Mr. Corbin, although that line will be one with American connections. They have so long waited for a line connected with the Canadian system that small blame can be attached to the Boundary people in respect of their present attitude, which by the bye, Mr. Bostock, M. P., endorses.

BRIDGE RIVER.

There will be quite a rush of miners to Bridge river this season, and already Lillooet is becoming quite a busy mine village and supply point. Much further development work has lately been done on the Alpha Bell Company's properties, and the new owners of the Forty Thieves group have just sent up a large body of workers to their mines.

COPPER IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

This Province will in a few years become one of the world's most noted copper exporting countries, but, as Mr. Carlyle points out, no large copper mines have yet developed. The production of 5,325,000 pounds during 1897 came almost entirely from Rossland and the Hall mines at Nelson, the average yield value at the former being 1.32 per cent., and at the latter 3.63 per cent. Thus the Nelson district produced \$172,682 worth of copper, and the Trill Creek district \$90,979 worth. The remainder of the Province yielded a copper value of \$2,597 only, much of this coming from Texada Island.

Work is in progress on the at present low-grade copper-bearing deposits in the Boundary Creek district, and considerable prospecting was done last year at Kamloops, on the St. Mary's, in East Kootenay, and on the island of Vancouver and adjacent islands, especially at the Van Anda, on Texada Island, whence several hundred tons of good grade bornite ore were shipped.

In these districts last named, the ore is usually chalcopryrite, in eruptive, diabasic rock, associated with pyrrhotite, and sometimes magnetite. Small bodies of massive yellow copper ore have been uncovered, but for such ore to be profitable there will need to be large bodies carrying a fair percentage in copper, and enough silver or gold, or both, values, for in mining large quantities, as would be imperative, the copper averages would almost certainly become low, hence requiring certain values in precious metals to make a total value sufficient to leave a margin of profit. In these districts some very promising discoveries have been made, and work is being begun upon them.

THE COLLIERIES' OUTPUT.

The final figures of Mr. W. A. Carlyle's report show that after all, the output of 1897 showed a moderate increase on that of 1896, instead of a slight decrease. Thus whilst the coal production of the British Columbia collieries fell from 896,222 tons in 1896 to 892,295 tons in 1897, the production of coke at Comox far more than made up the difference, rising from 1,565 tons in 1896 to 17,831 tons in 1897. Altogether the value of the coal and coke output of British Columbia rose from \$2,696,491 in 1896 to \$2,766,041 in 1897. The record year of our colliery output to date is 1891, when the coal yield was one of 1,029,097 tons, worth \$3,087,291, but with the growing home demand for coal and the rapidly increasing home and foreign demand for coke, and the opening of new coal fields in East Kootenay, it may be taken for granted that the present year will in amount and value make a record coal and coke output for British Columbia. The Klondike trade will vastly increase the demand for coal, so, too, the growth of the up-country mine districts, whilst not only will our own smelters take more coke, but there is also being found a like demand for that product at smelting points in Mexico. And, if recent amending legislation largely excludes Mongols from our coal mines, there should be much better times for the white collier.

THE TEXAS SOLD.

This mine of the Boundary district is reported sold to an American syndicate for a price stated as \$200,000, ten per cent. in cash, the balance in thirty days. The vendors are Messrs. Van Ness & Company of Grand Forks, but the price stated seems likely to be a considerable exaggeration of the actual purchase money, regard being had to present conditions of mining development in the Boundary creek country.

A TERRIBLE WINTER ROUTE.

A Mr. David Hopkins tells this about the Edmonton route to the Yukon:

"We are now camped on the Little Slave lake, 40 miles from the post and 400 miles from Edmonton. Words would fail to convey the state of the road. The hills are such as I have never experienced. It took us four days to travel fourteen miles, so you may judge of their roughness. In that distance we passed thirty dead horses and lost twenty-one of our own. I do not know of any enemies I have in Ottawa, but if there are any who are going to the Klondike I would advise them to come this way. We are now over the worst of the difficulties between this point and the Peace river crossing. We arrived here with 100 horses out of 142. Have sold all our horses, sleighs and harness, and will get our freight hauled to Peace river, which we will go down to the Slave river, across Great Slave lake, and down the Mackenzie and up the Peel. All the other parties who came this way have got to do the same, as it is impossible to get through to the Liard or Nelson."

And Mr. Hopkins has even now accomplished less than a quarter of his perilous Northern journey.

A SLOCAN VIEW OF THE KLONDIKE.

The facetious editor of the New Denver Ledge has lately had much to say about the Klondike in comparison with Slocan's famous silver country. The following are the latest of Mr. Lowery's bon mots on the subject, the humor of which scarcely conceals a suggestive note of warning well worth taking by many, especially among the "tenderfeet" who now crowd our cities en route for Dawson and the Klondike, towards which however, happily for themselves, a whole host of golf-stocked goldseekers in imagination will probably not get much nearer than the rough and ready hosteleries of Dyea, Skagway or Wrangel. Says the Ledge:

"It has been said that all those who do not pay the printer go to hell. Not being orthodox, we do not believe the assertion, but we do know that many have gone to the Klondike without making their peace with us. As that famous place, from all reports, is a winter resort for hades we suppose there is some truth in the front part of this paragraph."

"The human family do not know when their bread has real butter on it, as is evidenced by the numbers who have left the famous Slocan to pick up nuggets in the frozen regions of the north. Most of them will return like the prodigal son who wrote his papa as follows: 'Meet me in the suburbs of New Denver with a suit of clothes. I have a hat.'"

The next quotation strikes home to the heart even of a coast editor, as the trouble to which it alludes is by no means confined to the Slocan district of British Columbia:

"People rave and talk about the hardships in the Klondike, but if they had edited Slocan papers for several years they could tell of frosts that would cause a Dawson City thermometer to pine away into ordinary everyday insignificance."

THE KANAKA BAR PLACERS.

There is no truth in recently published reports that Lytton Indians have been making as much as \$50 a day each by work on Kanaka Bar in their district. Mr. J. H. Anthony of Lytton, who should know, says that the siwash have merely made hard-earned wages of about \$1.50 a day. This is almost certainly near the correct earnings, as the past record of Kanaka Bar indicates.

ANOTHER "BOOMED" COMPANY.

In the Boston Traveller appear an advertisement and summarized prospectus, which are as glowing in their prophesies of certain wealth to investors, as almost any of the most notorious of the many Klondike "fake" companies recently organized in London, England, where the proportion of respectably promoted and possibly profit earning Klondike enterprises is only about one in every five of the Yukon organizations registered. The Boston concern is called the Boston and British Columbia Gold Mining Company. It claims the possession of 200 acres of placer ground in the hitherto sadly disappointing country of Granite creek and the Tulameon river. The company's promoters, however, boldly advertise that their ground contains over \$10,000,000 in gold, and assert that the plant now being installed will produce \$2,000 net per diem by a remarkable appliance which is called the famous Coleman Mining Process. Treasury stock is being offered at \$1 a share, but neither the capital nor the officers of the company are stated in the advertisement which emanates from the offices of the company in Boston, U. S. A. Everything about the undertaking suggests that the Boston and British Columbia Gold Mining Company is one which the ordinary investor had better avoid, especially considering the fate of previous Tulameon district enterprises, none of which has yet shown that district to be profitably workable ground for a company of big capital. To prove that the Boston and British Columbia Gold Mining Company's property is valuable, there are quoted in the abridged prospectus some broadly general remarks of Dr. Dawson, F. R. G. S., to the effect that "gold abounds in every valley of British Columbia and every stream that enters it to it"—a most dangerously delusive passage, taken apart from a context which probably largely qualifies it, or certainly should do so in Dr. Dawson's report. The quoted passage is, of course, absolutely worthless, as an attempted proof of the richness of the Boston and British Columbia Gold Mining Company's properties, but seems to show how very careful eminent geologists should be in their general references to the mineral wealth of a precious metal country.

THE KLONDIKE ROUTES.

There will soon be a big block on the Dyea route, for there is even now stated to be more stuff piled up at Sheep camp than can be got over the Chilkoot pass in two months. The tramways, about which so many lying telegrams have been sent east and to England from American sources, are not working, nor likely to be for an indefinite period of the future. Again, between Skagway and the summit some 5,000 people are encamped, with the trail so broken that in all probability only 1,000 of them will get over the pass. The others will likely either return home or try the Stikine route. The Stikine route is also badly blocked just now by half-melted snow and slush, but the river should be open by the first week in May, when it is believed that the Stikine-Teslin road will become the favored route to the Yukon. As the situation now reveals itself, not a moment is to be gained; but trouble, difficulty and expense on the other hand will necessarily be entailed by immediate departure for any of the Alaskan ports of entry. Very little progress will be made by anybody before the beginning of May, and those who can so arrange will certainly be wise to remain either in Vancouver, New Westminster or Victoria for at least another fortnight. In the meantime it may now be taken for granted that hundreds will give up the attempt to make for the Klondike. Few expect that more than a small minority of English tenderfeet now making north, will ever get further than a

few miles beyond Dyea, Skagway, or Wrangol, with highly colored accounts of the state of things at which places, a host of "returned empties" will regale their friends in snug club and country house billiard and smoke rooms, when the leaves again begin to fall in early autumn. They wont, it is true, have reached the Yukon nor got within hundreds of miles of that country, but a little imagination will make amends for this, and the Alaskan coast cliffs will seem to the returned travelers quite sufficiently like earthly infernos.

THE WAR EAGLE AND THE LE ROI.

At the War Eagle big preparations are being made for stopping, and, with the addition of new machinery, it is hoped shortly to make the output 200 tons a day. Whilst the bulk of the ore will naturally be shipped to Trail, two carloads were recently sent to Nelson for use as fluxes in the Hall mines smelter. The Le Roi shaft is now down over 725 feet with the result of a splendid showing of ore in the 600-foot west drift. The mine offices and other buildings are about to be lit by electricity, but electricity will not be used in mine working for some time yet, the present system being a complete one, to change which would involve large expenditure.

SILVER AT ROSSLAND.

A strike at the Deer Park mine, if proved by subsequent working to have revealed a substantial new ore body at all like that shown by first indications, suggests that Rossland's metal output may in due course include important silver shipments. It is stated that high-grade ore, lately struck at the 150-foot level of the Deer Park, assayed for selected specimens \$270 in gold and 250 ounces in silver, plus a large percentage of copper to the ton. If even a fifth or sixth only of this value per ton in gold, silver and copper be found to mark the new ore body on the Deer Park, and the body itself be found substantial in bulk, there are good prospects before this and other mines and claims in the South Belt of Rossland.

BADLY NEEDED WORK.

A petition to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works pleads for a moderate Provincial expenditure on the repairs of the wagon road from Silverton to Four-Mile creek in the Slocan, without which reparation the further development and profitable working of the productive properties of the Vancouver Group Mining Company, the Comstock Mines, Limited, and other neighboring mines will be greatly impeded.

London & B.C. Alliance Syndicate**Want Valuable Mining Property.**

Owners wishing to dispose of valuable mining claims are requested to send full particulars to Mr. J. C. Fergusson, M. Inst. C. E., the consulting engineer of the Syndicate, who is prepared to examine and report upon the same.

All communications considered confidential.

J. C. Fergusson,

The Lefevre Block,

Vancouver, B. C.

Or P. O. Box 423

Mining Stock Quotations

Corrected Weekly by Percy W. Charleson, Mining Broker,
117 Hastings Street, Vancouver.

COMPANY	NO OF SHARES	PAR VALUE	PRICE
TRAIL CREEK			
Butte	1,000,000	\$ 1 00	\$ 01½
Caledonia Con	1,000,000	1 00	05½
Colonna	1,000,000	1 00	21
Commander	500,000	1 00	15
Deer Park	1,000,000	1 00	11½
Enterprise	500,000	1 00	18
Eureka Consolidated	1,000,000	1 00	06½
Evening Star	1,000,000	1 00	06
Georgic	1,000,000	1 00	09
Gertrude	500,000	1 00	11
Good Hope	500,000	1 00	01
Grand Prize	1,000,000	1 00	03½
Great Western	1,000,000	1 00	03½
Hattie Brown	1,000,000	1 00	05
High Ore	500,000	1 00	01½
Iron Mask	500,000	1 00	42
Iron Colt	1,000,000	1 00	13
Joslo	500,000	1 00	28
Josie Mae	500,000	1 00	—
Jumbo	500,000	1 00	69
Le Roi	500,000	5 00	7 75
Lily May	2,000,000	1 00	19½
Mayflower	1,000,000	1 00	08
Monita	750,000	1 00	17
Monte Cristo	1,000,000	1 00	20
Mugwump	1,000,000	1 00	02½
Novelty	1,000,000	1 00	05
Phoenix	500,000	1 00	08
Poorman	750,000	1 00	11½
Red Mountain View	1,000,000	1 00	—
Rosland, Red Mt'n	1,000,000	1 00	21
Silverline	500,000	1 00	06
Silver Bell	1,000,000	1 00	06
St. Elmo	1,000,000	1 00	05
Virginia	500,000	1 00	21
War Eagle Con	9,000,000	1 00	1 20
West Le Roi Josie	500,000	1 00	27
White Bear	500,000	1 00	08
AINSWORTH, NELSON & SLOAN			
American Boy	1,000,000	1 00	14
Athabasca	1,000,000	1 00	27
Arlington Con.	1,000,000	1 00	12
Bundee	1,000,000	1 00	50
Dardanelles	1,000,000	1 00	11½
Belle	750,000	1 00	12
Elise	1,000,000	1 00	—
Gibson	650,000	1 50	17
Hall Mines	300,000	21	—
Idler	1,000,000	1 00	11
London Hill	600,000	25	25
Kaslo Montezuma	1,250,000	1 00	20
Noble Five Co.	1,200,000	1 00	18
Phoenix Consolidated	750,000	1 00	05
Rambler Con	1,000,000	1 00	30
Reco	1,000,000	1 00	1 75
Sloan Star	500,000	50	2 00
St. Keverne	1,000,000	1 00	03
Two Friends	240,000	30	16
Wonderful	1,000,000	1 00	04½
Washington	1,000,000	1 00	15
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alpha Bell	500,000	1 00	43
Cariboo (Camp McK.)	800,000	1 00	58
Cariboo Hydraulic Con.	5,000,000	5 14	82
Chance	250,000	25	08
Fern G. M. Co.	200,000	25	75
Golden Cache	500,000	1 00	75
Occidental M. & M. Co.	600,000	1 00	01¼
Old Ironsides	1,000,000	1 00	13
Smuggler	1,000,000	1 00	17
Tin Horn	200,000	25	30
Van Ande	5,000,000	1 00	01
Winches'er	250,000	25	25
Fire Mountain	1,000,000	1 00	40
B. C. Mining Prospectors' Ex. Ltd.	250,000	25	25

DIVIDENDS.

Dividends paid to date are as follows: Le Roi, \$725,000; War Eagle (Old Company), \$217,500; Rambler-Cariboo, \$40,000; Reco, \$250,000; Sloan Star, \$150,000; Cariboo, \$180,000; Dominion Developing, \$15,150. The Hall Mines Limited, has also paid dividends on preferred and ordinary stock.

ESTIMATED PROFITS.

It is estimated that the profits of the mines subjoined have returned the sums placed opposite their respective names:

Payne	\$400,000	Goodenough	35,000
Idaho	240,000	Noble Five	50,000
Poorman	50,000	Northern Belle	20,000
Ruth	210,000	Antoine	10,000
Whitewater	154,000	Surprise	20,000
Washington	20,000	Monitor	15,000
Sloan Roy	25,000	Last Chance	50,000
		Fern	10,000

LONDON LETTER.

[From our own Correspondent.]

LONDON, March 5th, 1898.

In my last letter I gave a list of London brokers already associated with your Province. I think I omitted to mention two or three rather important firms, who, although not actually connected with British Columbia in an official capacity, are yet largely interested in the Province. They include Pim Vaughan & Co., who are at the back of the Vancouver Syndicate group; Whitehead and Cheown, who have thrown themselves enthusiastically into the movement, and Seratton & Son, an old-fashioned firm who have large interests in Rossland properties.

And now for a few words about the gentlemen who actually form the British Columbia market in the London Stock Exchange. Honor is, I believe, due in the first instance to Douglas Junior & Co., who are said to have left the Trunk market to inaugurate the new section. Almost, if not actually coincident with their decision to deal in Canadian mining shares, was the appearance on the scene of a young jobber, named Paull. In a short time other big firms were tentatively represented in the little corner of the Stock Exchange, sacred to the cause of British Columbian mining, and although these firms have not yet actively associated themselves with the movement, it might be of interest to mention their names, as they are identified with other very important mining interests in various parts of the world, a fact which makes their adhesion to the Province in particular, and Canada in general, the more significant. The most important are Stoneham & Messenger, and then we have Burdett & Harris. Other firms that should be mentioned are Douglas Marvin and G. L. Wood & Co. Of course those whose names I have given are probably only a tithe of the firms, who are more or less interested in Canadian mining, but they undoubtedly deserve special mention in your columns for the part they have played in attracting public attention to the mining developments of British Columbia and Klondyke. I shall keep you fully posted regarding the addition to their ranks of new recruits, but in view of all the circumstances I think British Columbia can congratulate itself upon having created so much interest in this country and obtained such prominent recognition in the London Stock Exchange by the inauguration of a special market to deal in its shares.

Space would not permit me to mention all the names of prominent Canadians now visiting this country, but it is pleasing to us on this side to find that British Columbians are determined to use every endeavor to attract British capital to the Province. Quite a number of them are making arrangements to have offices in this city, and it is satisfactory to find that many of the prominent Trail Creek companies are opening London offices. This is as it should be, because it is really ridiculous to suppose that the London investor is going to put his money into shares of local companies unless he is afforded an opportunity of transferring the same without undue delay if he should find it either necessary or advantageous so to do.

At the moment the British Columbia market is not particularly brisk, and even the wily promoter seems to have taken a rest from his labors. He has been busy enough, goodness knows, during the past twelve months, and quite a crop of "wild cats" are the result. Unfortunately a lot more of these objectionable creatures will shortly be brought into the world, and this is one of the least pleasant features in the position. British-American Corporations are a little firmer, because of the expected arrival in a day or two of the redoubtable Mackintosh, but on the whole both Klondyke and British Columbia share quotations have been showing a drooping disposition. The Ymir district is

well represented in this city by the Canadian Pacific Exploration and Parker & Kennedy, the latter having recently opened an office in London. The Tupper companies are well esteemed and are evidently serious in their intentions—which is more than can be said of a good many others—to carry on vigorous operations in the sphere chosen for their operations. The Grant-Govan group are also responding to the energetic policy of their creator, and I hear that Grant-Govan will shortly bring out a company to build a railway to connect the properties at Albert Canyon with the C. P. R. The London and B. C. Goldfields crowd are eminently respectable, and prices of their shares keep firm. I hear that Mr. J. A. Turner has a new company coming along, and might mention that among other new concerns which will shortly see the light, is the British Columbia and Northwest Canadian Gold Trust Company. This company is making arrangements to acquire quite a large number of properties, most of which, I believe, are in the Kootenay country, and which have been very well reported upon by people qualified to form an opinion. The capital is, I believe, to be a quarter of a million sterling, and I hear that the concern is so powerfully backed, that it is likely that its shares will be difficult to obtain under a premium. Very little is doing in Klondyke companies, but the city is full of men who tell you that they can sell you outright claims on Eldorado, Bonanza, Hunker, and in fact all the best tributaries of the now famous Klondyke river. As an instance of the way in which the British public are being exploited, I might mention that one concern, calling itself by the grandiloquent title of the Klondyke Hydraulic, recently asked the public to provide it with a large sum of money to take over the rights of a gentleman returned from the Klondyke who was apparently so hard up that he was willing to sell actual accumulated gold dust and nuggets stowed away in a cabin close to Dawson City amounting to £46,000 for the sum of about £10,000. Of course a thing like this was a little too far fetched for our own investors, and, I believe, the response was very poor, indeed.

Our papers are daily dotted with the advertisements of Klondyke expeditions, etc., which are being fitted out, and a company was introduced last week which for £500, in £1 shares, guaranteed to carry the investor right to Dawson City in comparative comfort, look after him and give him employment for several years. I know the people at the back of this well, but although the scheme was a novel one I doubt much if they got a quarter of the money asked. By the bye, now that Whitaker Wright has thrown himself so heartily into British Columbia and the Klondyke, I suppose it will not be very long before his keen rival, Horatio Bottomley (the West Australian financier) follows in his footsteps. One of the latter's late factotums, R. A. Jewell, did so about twelve months since, but so far I have heard very little as to the tangible results achieved by his company, the B.C. Financial Trust.

As an item of good news, I may mention that London and B.C. Goldfields has just declared a dividend of 1 shilling per share. It is said that when Morris Catton comes home, his companies, or some of them, will declare dividends. How they are to manage it I don't know, and I very much doubt such a desirable consummation. The group is not thought much of in London. Hall mines are a little firmer, but Klondyke companies are off color, and the market closes on a dull appearance. We are now anxiously waiting for the news from Dawson City regarding the past winter's work and its results.

Ex-Governor McIntosh, who is expected in town almost immediately, before he left, told a Roseland interviewer a lot about the policy of the much-vaunted B.A.C. which will be news to the London shareholders. He stoutly defended

his policy, and had a word or two to say in explanation of that somewhat grandiloquent phrase about his company possessing the "keys to the golden treasure-houses of British Columbia," a phrase which I see has been much discussed—not always in flattering terms—by the Provincial press. By the bye, I notice that the Le Roi has passed its January dividend, owing largely to the drain on the exchequer in connection with the Northport smelter. We expect to hear a good deal in this connection and also in regard to the Alaska Commercial Company from Mr. McIntosh when he arrives. I suppose Whitaker Wright is already preparing the feast for the holder of "those wonderful keys."

I think you will admit that no one is in a better position to judge the state of affairs in London regarding British Columbia than the banks most interested in the development of its vast mineral resources. It may, therefore, be of interest to make a brief reference to the recent meetings of the Bank of B.C. and the Bank of B.N.A. At the latter gathering, which took place on Tuesday, the chairman said they would observe that considerable progress had been made by the company during the past six months, the total balance having been £5,129,962, as against £4,884,917 in the previous half year. They would find that there had been an increase in almost every item. The deposits and current accounts amounted to £2,310,148, compared with £2,119,039. The notes in circulation had increased from £245,000 to £253,101, which was a considerable increase upon the year ending December, 1896, when the amount was £211,466. Bills payable and other liabilities stood at £1,242,220, as compared with £1,202,604. Turning to the other side of the accounts they would find that they had by cash and specie at bankers and in hand and at call on short notice £917,401, as compared with £682,785. As to investments they had their consols, £150,000 at 90 still. The bills receivable, loans on security and other accounts showed an increase, being £3,924,415 as compared with £3,875,446. The profit amounted to £39,435 and showed some progress. Out of it they proposed to declare a dividend of 25 shillings per share, equal to 5 per cent. per annum. They had also added £10,000 to the reserve fund, and that left a balance of £3,726 to carry forward. On the whole he thought they would agree with him that the balance sheet showed an improvement, and that the business had been satisfactory, inasmuch as they had made more money, and they had also been fortunate in having very few bad debts to write off. They were told at the last meeting of the position of the new branches in British Columbia. They had not opened any more since that date, and he was very glad to say that those working now were quite up to what the directors expected from them. Now he thought they might at any rate take a cheerful view of the present position of Canada—an improvement in the farming industry and an improvement also consequent on the discoveries of gold. It could not, in fact, be doubted that the trade of Canada was in a far better condition than it had been in for some years past.

Sir Robert Gillespie presided at the meeting of the former (the Bank of B.C.) and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, pointed out that the past half-year had in some measure realized the hopes and anticipations that the directors ventured to predict at the last meeting. He trusted it indicated a progressive return to that success and prosperity which characterized the business of the bank for so many years. They had no doubt that the extraordinary development of the mineral wealth in British Columbia and the new discoveries in the Yukon must result in a large influx of people into the country and a greatly increased and successful business in these districts. The preparations being made in British Columbia in all

branches of trade for the reception and equipment of explorers and miners were unprecedented in extent and must lead to a very great and lucrative extension of the trade of the country. He was sanguine that this improvement would permeate the whole community. The most recent reports of the general business were confirmatory of this expectation, and a further indication was the satisfactory fact that landed estate and other securities had shown a marked improvement in value. The half-years' working showed a net profit of £18,351, as compared with £14,382 for the half year ending 30th June, 1897, after making due provision for all ascertained losses. The directors recommended that a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum be paid for the half year ending 31st December last, leaving a balance of £8,351 to be carried forward. The financial position of the bank, as shown by the accounts in available assets, was undoubtedly a strong one.

C. J. WALKER.

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Provincial Secretary's Office.

His Honor the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to make the following appointment:

14th March, 1898.

FREDERICK WILLIAM VALLEAU, Esquire, to be Stipendiary Magistrate within and for the Counties of Nanaimo and Cariboo, Gold Commissioner, Government Agent, Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Works, and a Collector under the "Revenue" and "Revenue Tax" Acts for that part of the Province known as the Omineca Land Recording District. 48-9

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We most confidently believe that our goods are not surpassed in wearing qualities by any others on the market, and we doubt much if they are even equalled.

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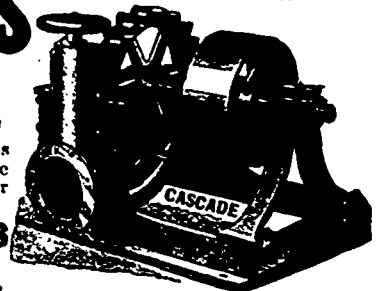
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The entire Government Expeditions were equipped with these bags.

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Leave Kaslo for Nelson and way points, daily except Sundays, 5:45 a. m.
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New Service on Kootenay Lake.

Leave Nelson for Kaslo, etc., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. 8:30 a.m.
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G. ALEXANDER, General Manager.

Kaslo & Slocan Railway

--- TIME CARD ---

Trains Run on Pacific Standard Time.

Going west	Daily	Going east
Lv 8:00 a.m.	Kaslo	Ar 3:50 p.m.
" 8:30 "	South Fork	" 3:15 "
" 9:30 "	Sproule's	" 2:15 "
" 9:51 "	Whitewater	" 2:00 "
" 10:01 "	Bear Lake	" 1:45 "
" 10:58 "	McGuigan	" 1:35 "
" 10:58 "	Junction	" 1:12 "
Ar 10:50 "	Sandon	Lv 1:00 "

SANDON AND CODY.

Lv 11:00 a.m.	Sandon	Ar 1:15 p.m.
Ar 11:20 "	Cody	Lv 11:25 a.m.

Telegraphic Address, "Bed-rock." R. W. BRYAN, Superintendent.
Code, Moreing & Neals

COLUMBIA & WESTERN RAILWAY CO.

Time Table No. 6, to take effect July 3, 1897.

EASTBOUND.

No. 2 passenger (daily except Sunday)	
Leaves Rossland	3:00 p.m.
Arrives at Trail	3:50 p.m.
No. 4 passenger (daily)	
Leaves Rossland	11:00 a.m.
Arrives at Trail	12:00 a.m.
No. 6 passenger (daily except Sunday)	
Leaves Rossland	7:00 a.m.
Arrives at Trail	7:50 a.m.

WESTBOUND.

No. 3 passenger (daily except Sunday)	
Leaves Trail	8:15 a.m.
Arrives in Rossland	9:30 a.m.
No. 1 passenger (daily)	
Leaves Trail	12:30 p.m.
Arrives in Rossland	1:30 p.m.
No. 5 passenger (daily except Sunday)	
Leaves Trail	5:45 p.m.
Arrives in Rossland	7:00 p.m.

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Rivers Inlet and Naas River—SS. Coquitlam sails on 8th and 22nd of each month and will proceed to any part of the Coast should inducements offer.

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Freight Steamers—SS. Capilano and S. S. Coquitlam, capacity 300 tons, D.W.

Tugs and Scows always available for towing and freighting business. Large storage accommodation on company's wharf
Telephone 94. H. DARLING, Manager.

C. P. NAVIGATION CO., LTD

TIME TABLE NO. 32

Takes effect January 4th, 1898.

VANCOUVER ROUTE.

VICTORIA TO VANCOUVER—Daily (except Monday) at 1 o'clock.

VANCOUVER TO VICTORIA—Daily (except Monday), at 13.15 o'clock, or on arrival of C. P. R. No. 1 train.

NEW WESTMINSTER ROUTE.

LEAVE VICTORIA FOR NEW WESTMINSTER, LADNER'S LANDING AND LULU ISLAND—Sunday at 23 o'clock; Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 o'clock. Sunday's steamer to New Westminster connects with C. P. R. train No. 2 going east Monday.

FOR PLUMPER PASS—Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 o'clock.

FOR MORESBY AND PENDER ISLANDS—Friday at 7 o'clock.

LEAVE NEW WESTMINSTER FOR VICTORIA—Monday at 13:15 o'clock; Thursday and Saturday at 7 o'clock.

FOR PLUMPER PASS—Thursday and Saturday at 7 o'clock.

FOR PENDER AND MORESBY ISLANDS—Thursday at 7 o'clock.

NORTHERN ROUTE.

Steamships of this Company will leave for Fort Simpson and intermediate ports, via Vancouver, the 1st and 15th of each month at 8 o'clock. And for Skidegate on the 1st of each month.

BARCLAY SOUND ROUTE.

Steamer Tees leaves Victoria for Alberni and Sound ports the 15th and 30th of each month.

KLONDIKE ROUTE.

Steamers leave weekly for Wrangel, Juneau, Dyea and Skagway.

The Company reserves the right of changing this Time Table at any time without notification.

JOHN IRVING, Manager.

G. A. CARLETON, General Agent.
Victoria.

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