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The British Columbia Mining Critic.

"I Am Nothing if Not Critical." - Shakespeare.

Vol. I. No. 1.

VANCOUVER, B. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1897.

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BRITISH COLUMBIAN DIVIDENDS.

The following tables compiled by the Spokane Stock Reporter show the number of mines in southern British Columbia that rank as dividend payers or that have returned profits to private owners:

TRAIL CREEK DISTRICT.

	Capital.	Shares.	Divid.
Le Roi, g. c....	\$2,500,000	500,000	\$350,000
War Eagle, g. c.	700,000	700,000	187,000

SLOCAN DISTRICT.

	Capital.	Shares.	Divid.
Rambler's L.....	\$1,000,000	1,000,000	\$ 20,000
Reco, s. l.....	1,000,000	1,000,000	190,000
Slocan Star, s. l.	300,000	1,000,000	300,000

CAMP MCKINNEY DISTRICT.

	Capital.	Shares.	Divid.
Cariboo, g.....	\$80,000	800,000	\$14,410

The following mines are owned by private individuals and have returned profits. The exact amounts are not obtainable, but are estimated below:

Mine.	District.	Est. Profits.
Payne, s. l.....	Slocan.....	\$253,000.00
Idaho, s. l.....	".....	132,000.00
Poorman, g.....	Nelson.....	50,000.00
Ruth's, l.....	Slocan.....	50,000.00
Whitewater, s. l.....	".....	40,000.00
*Washington, s. l.....	".....	20,000.00
Slocan Boy, s. l.....	".....	25,000.00
*Goodenough, s. l.....	".....	35,000.00
*Noble Five, s. l.....	".....	50,000.00
*Northern Belle, s. l.....	".....	20,000.00
Antoine, s. l.....	".....	10,000.00
Surprise, s. l.....	".....	20,000.00
Monitor, s. l.....	".....	15,000.00
*Last Chance, s. l.....	".....	50,000.00
*Dardanelles, s. l.....	".....	".....

*Recently incorporated.
Following is a partial list of incorporated mines making regular shipments, which thus far have distributed no dividends:

Mine.	District.	Cap. Stock.	Shares.
Jumbo, g. c....	Trail.....	\$500,000	500,000
C. & K., g. c....	".....	250,000	250,000
Hall Mines, s. l.....	Nelson.....	\$300,000	300,000
Jo-se, g. c....	Trail.....	\$700,000	700,000
Iron Alask, g. c....	".....	500,000	500,000
O. K., g.....	".....	1,000,000	1,000,000

g. c., gold; g. c., gold; copper; s. l., silver; lead; s. c., silver; copper.

It may be added that since this list was compiled, the Rambler-Cariboo has declared a second monthly dividend of \$20,000 and announced a probability of a similar dividend being paid monthly right along. The Two Friends mine, in the Slocan, has also announced a dividend. In the Slocan numerous properties besides those named in the list have been profitably worked, but being as a rule owned by a few individuals with no stock on the market, it is difficult to obtain particulars.

As the list stands, a necessarily incomplete one, it is still a very creditable showing when it is considered how recently work on an extensive scale set in in this district, and it must be admitted that the silver-lead properties of the Slocan came out well in comparison with

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**THE SPORTSMAN'S VIEW OF
MINING STOCKS.**

The *Canadian Sportsman* published in Toronto, has a poor opinion of its contemporaries in that city. It thinks that the general public need expect no protection from the daily press in that city. Some of those, says the *Sportsman*, who control the Toronto newspapers, are mixed up in more than one mining scheme, and some have had big batches of gold mining stocks given them for puffs in their columns. If it were only the wealthy who were buying shares it would not matter a great deal how much they suffered by their credulity, but unfortunately there are thousands of working men and women who have invested the savings of many a hard years work in wildcat concerns. The *Sportsman* thinks that exploration and development companies, with nothing but rainbow-tinted, gold-bedizened script to exchange for the money invested, ought to be suppressed. Our opinion is that the law is sufficiently stringent, as it at present stands, to effectually suppress fraud by misrepresentation. In Canada, we believe, it is even preposterous in its severity on this subject. This, and much more to the same effect, which has not even the feature of novelty, flows from the pen of the *Canadian Sportsman*. We think that the mischief he deplores is overated however. The par value of stocks is placed so low nowadays that the smaller fry of investors like to dabble to a limited extent. We cannot conceive that they are so foolish as to put all their eggs in one basket. If the success of a mine was guaranteed the share value would be so high that few would have an opportunity of getting in. Such mines as were stocked would be close corporations, in which only a favored few would hold shares and participate in the profits.

Anyone with the most elementary knowledge of the subject, knows that mining is at the best, and under the most favorable circumstances, a gamble. All that can be absolutely guaranteed is what is in sight, and there are a hundred and one chances to take in the most promising. If all goes well the profits are immense. This is what makes mining ventures so attractive. If a stop is to be put upon this class of investment, the shortest cut would be to let the state stand loco parentis to the public, and dictate where it is to place its money. Would our sporting contemporaries propose prize fighting, aquatic and shooting matches as a legitimate exception?—*Ex.*

The Dominion Developing & Mining Company, Limited Liability, has sent notification to its shareholders through the *CRITIC* which is of great importance. It is contained in the inside back cover.

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MAURICE GRADWOHL,
Managing Editor.

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P. O. Box 125.

OUR RAISON D'ETRE.

The object of the BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING CRITIC is to inform the world how the mineral deposits of British Columbia in particular, and Canada in general, are being developed and with what pecuniary results.

We recognize the fact that to combine individual capital for the general good and the private acquisition of a competency is a virtue; and that to conspire and scheme, and by fraudulent misrepresentation endeavor to accumulate wealth, is a vice.

Hence we will assist the successful promotion of all legitimate mining enterprises, and we will devote our best energies and to the utmost of our ability expose dishonorable projects through which the public may become victimized. These are the purposes for which we exist.

THE PRESS AND OUR MINES.

It has become so familiar to read in the morning and evening papers of an important strike in this mine and a gigantic find in another, both of which excel in value any previous discovery, that quite naturally these statements are at last received by the knowing public with derision. It appears from a common sense point of view, that with only an exception here and there, the whole united press have banded together to suppress information in connection with certain mines which they know to be badly managed, financially weak, and totally worthless so far as ore value is concerned. In many cases it has only to be stated that Tom Brown or Dick Jones made a valuable discovery at Gold Valley, Silver Creek, or some other well known vicinity, when the next issue of the journal details the find, showing all its glowing capabilities of paying hundreds of thousands of dollars in dividends with

and all this matter is published day after day without any better authority than a statement from one who in most cases never before saw either a mine or a prospect. Without first accepting facts as genuine the press have a duty to perform in making every enquiry as to the truth and the merit of the assertion. Again, an interested shareholder, or even a director, reports the striking of the lode in No. 2 tunnel six feet wide of solid ore, assaying from \$20 to \$100, yet upon investigation the strike proves a small vein intermixed with country rock, extending across the face of the tunnel at the bottom of the shaft, and really assaying from nothing to \$5; yet the assays are not taken heed of until, with the audacity of a thief, the picking and mixing at last enables those responsible to obtain the desired result—a big assay, which means nothing, but has the desired effect. It is high time that the press generally changed their tactics. Too many mining propositions pay their advertising accounts in the share of the company, hence the writing up with or without merit the mining shares in the various companies. Unfortunately, it is believed by proprietors and editors of many journals that their agricultural and general correspondent has only to be sent into a mining district and report generally upon prospects etc. Yet if they would understand how little reliance can be placed upon such authority they would hesitate before sending such a representative on so hazardous a pilgrimage. The mining reporter needs to have considerable practical experience and to be able to judge the value of a mine and its prospects within reason, and be under no restrictions; to see what he reports, and writes upon his own judgment, not receive statements that this prospect is wonderful and that company will shortly be distributing dividends, then accept it as facts because he has had no mining experience.

A newspaper representative that has to accept mining notes from managers, directors, and others interested will be frequently hoodwinked, and in turn the public are deceived, and stores of cash reach the pockets of the mining shark, while ninety per cent. of the press can to-day congratulate themselves upon furthering the swindles perpetrated by these mining magnates. A mining reporter needs to have the qualification of being suspicious of every mining report he hears casually. It is necessary to be decisive and personally inspect the workings, form his own opinion and have the courage of his convictions, which in due course appear in the paper he has the privilege of acting for. It is obvious to do this that mining experience must be another and paramount qualification. Yet we are going to place ourselves on this footing, and our reports on the various mines and prospects will be vouched for, all reports undergoing the strictest enquiry, and our own special mining representative, who has had many years of mining experience all over the world, will examine carefully all mines upon which we furnish particulars for the benefit of the public.

The editor of the *Morning Breeze* having become identified with this journal, the publication of the former will cease.

A SALTED CLAIM.

That is What is Supposed to be the Water with the Stanley Mine.

Mr. H. T. Brown of Spokane, was among the many visitors arriving in Rossland during the past week. Mr. Brown was for a number of years connected with the Butte Miner as one of the owners and business manager, was for a time part owner of the Spokane Review, and was instrumental in a large measure in establishing the Spokane Spokesman and continues the Rosslander. Mr. Brown owned a small block of stock in the Stanley mine, of Stevens county, which recently came into prominence as having undergone the salting process, and being well acquainted with those discovered and worked the claim and owned the majority of stock in the property, is in a position to speak with knowledge upon the subject, that is, with as much knowledge as any of the shareholders seem to possess. The property is located on or near the ranch of one Suter, who first discovered the claim and succeeded in getting others interested. From the very first the ore assayed from \$15 to \$25 to the ton, and as the ledge was very wide, the indications pointed to the Stanley as one of the most promising propositions in the Northwest.

The rock assayed was not confined to that furnished by a single individual. All the claimants had assays made to satisfy themselves, and anyone so desiring could take out rock and satisfy themselves as to the value of the same. Many took advantage of this, and so uniformly rich were the various assays, that stock sold rapidly, and all the surrounding country was staked out. Then came the representatives of parties anxious to get hold of mining property of promise. They examined the Stanley thoroughly, satisfied themselves of the character of the rock, and bonded the property for \$50,000, paying down 10 per cent. of the bond. Shortly afterwards came the astounding discovery that there had been crooked work. Rock taken out of the face of the ledge refused to show the presence of gold. The exposure was as great a surprise to the stockholders in Spokane as it was to the parties who took the bond. Some of them repaired to the mine and took out a dozen samples from various parts of the ledge, and the highest assay showed but 40 cents in gold. Mr. Brown says it has been impossible to locate the guilty party, if salting was done. Mr. Suter, the original discoverer of the lead, is a farmer, and would seem incapable of doctoring the ore. Even were he capable of doing so, it would have been impossible to have kept up the deception successfully for so long a time. Besides, had he been so engaged, discovery was only a question of time, and it would have been to his interest to clear up at once and for as good a sum as possible. This he did not do, as he refused a hand-

would-be purchasers intended to lay out as a townsite. Another mystery connected with the case is that the parties having bonded the Stanley, so far show no disposition to throw up the bond. There have been no new developments in the case recently. If there are any who are suspected, with any good ground for such suspicion, nothing is said publicly, and it is believed that if the rock was fixed, the guilty party will, in time, be discovered. Huckleberry district, that was attracting much favorable attention prior to the publicity given to the Stanley trouble, has been seriously affected, and until it has been demonstrated, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the ledges in that locality carry gold that has not been applied by artificial means, the demand for property thereabouts will be very slow.

ANOTHER EXTRAVAGANT MINING PROSPECTUS.

We have before us the prospectus of the Gold Fields of British Columbia, Limited, a company lately incorporated in England, with a capital of £600,000. Of this amount £200,000 is to be devoted to carrying on the affairs of the company and £400,000 is to be paid to the vendors of certain properties. The prospectus is flowery in the extreme, overdrawn and, in our opinion, misleading in a number of the statements it contains. Amongst the directors are two Earls and two Colonels, and on the advisory board for Canada are three well-known and highly respected citizens of Victoria, B. C. In fact the list of directors, solicitors, bankers, brokers, mining engineers, auditors, assayers, etc., which appears on the prospectus presents a formidable array of talent and influence. Would that it had been put to some better use.

The names given as being connected with this scheme are sufficient, one would think, to vouch for its respectability and the reliability of its prospectus. Yet on looking over the document before us we can form but one opinion—that it is an attempt to induce people to invest money in an enterprise which, to say the least of it, is somewhat of an uncertain quantity at the present moment. In fact the vendors are to be paid £400,000 or two million dollars for a lot of property the value of which is of very doubtful character indeed as compared with the amount to be paid to the vendors.

We observe the prospectus—with apparent candour—states that the vendors are selling at a profit. The amount of that profit is, however, left to the imagination of the readers, although we venture the opinion that if known it would represent a very considerable sum.

Now let us see the nature of the properties upon which two million dollars of the capital of the company are to be expended.

Nineteen mineral claims at Albert Canyon with little development work done upon them. It is true a Mr. Perry

reasoning endeavours to show that these claims may pay an annual profit of £500,000 or over two million and a half dollars per annum. We have a great opinion of the paying qualities of our mines, but in that respect we now take off our hats to Mr. Perry Leake.

Following the Albert Canyon Property are six hundred and forty acres of auriferous gravel in Chrome Valley—value conjectural.

Next comes the Channe Mining Company's properties, on which some development work has been done. It would be interesting to know, however, the exact price agreed to be paid by the vendors for these claims. It might give us an idea of the amount of their profit on the whole two millions.

Then comes a half interest (why only a half interest?) in three claims near Rossland and a half interest in seven other claims in the northern division of West Kootenay about which little information is given in the prospectus. We would suggest to any parties who may have been induced to invest in the Gold Fields Company, to write to Rossland for an unbiased and independent present valuation of the claims located there.

This company also proposes to go into the townsite business on Tharlow Island and Albert Canyon, the profitable nature of which is altogether problematical—very much so indeed. We would like to know, however, how much of the two million dollars to be paid to the vendors is represented by the actual present of these two townsites.

The whole scheme has every appearance of being an attempt to work off at most extravagant figures a lot of mining property and real estate on the British investing public. The columns of the *British Columbia Mining Record* are open to the promoters of the Gold Fields Company to explain their true position in the matter if they wish to do so.

We want to see British capital invested in our mines, but we object to the mineral wealth of the province being made a scapegoat by company promoters to put money in their own pockets at the expense of the English people.

Space forbids our giving more than passing notice to this subject, but we will return to it in our April number. We may, however, speaking in a general way, point out to men of position and influence who allow their names to be used on prospectuses without proper investigation, that by so doing they run the risk not only of being the indirect means of inflicting serious injury to innocent investors, but of finding themselves, in some cases, made parties to very unsavory transactions.—*The Mining Record*.

The foregoing we quote from, and give credit to, *The Province*, bearing date March 13th, 1897.

Now comes the *Victoria Daily Colonist* of April 18th, 1897, and supplies us with

GOLD FIELDS OF B. C.

A SKETCH OF MR. GRANT-GOVAN IN AN ENGLISH PAPER.

The *Colonies and India* prints with a portrait the following appreciative notice of Mr. Ernest Grant-Govan, the founder of the Gold Fields of British Columbia:

What Cecil Rhodes has done for South Africa, what Whitaker, Wright and others have done for Western Australia, Ernest Grant-Govan intends to do for British Columbia. The founder of a gigantic company, which has just met with such a large measure of success in London's market, is a man of indomitable perseverance, audacious in the colossal proportions of his creations, and a man whose footsteps up to the present have always trodden the paths of success of a race of financiers. Mr. Grant-Govan has, while in his "thirties," achieved success which many older men may envy. His connection with the development of the mining industries of West Australia has been considerable. As an original director of the Golden Horse Shoe Gold Mining Company, (an undertaking which promises to be one of the most prosperous in West Australia), as the chairman and as director of other West Australian corporations, each and all of which have proved successful and give promise of proving even more successful in the, Mr. Grant-Govan, when he turned his attention to our province of British Columbia, had the benefit of large experience in mining matters. After several months' sojourn in British Columbia, he expresses unbounded confidence in that country, and predicts that it will not only rival but will excel all other goldfields which have yet been discovered. In an interview with our representative he mentioned that one of the properties alone which the Gold Fields of British Columbia have acquired is worth more than the whole capital of the company: a vein of ore in value about £20 per ton, which has been traced for more than a mile in length, which is 40 feet wide, and which has been cut at 300 feet deep, is a natural deposit of rich mineral which heretofore has never been met with. Under those circumstances it is natural Mr. Grant-Govan has implicit confidence in the future of this great company, which, with almost unique audacity, he has successfully launched, heedless of the unprecedented depression in our markets. We believe in the company, but our belief would not be so great had we not more confidence in the ability of the founder to pilot it into a position of great financial stability.—*Victoria Colonist.*

Then there is placed before us the "Weekly List of Prices" published by J. Grant Maclean, Stirling, Scotland, with: "Enquiries were made as to the amount of capital subscribed for the Gold Fields of British Columbia, recently offered with £600,000 capital, but have met with

Inferred that the response from the public has not been large."

Before us lies wheat and chaff. Who is Mr. Grant-Govan? He is the founder of a company, "a gigantic company," which has met with a large measure of success in London's market. For the Gold Fields of British Columbia, we are informed, has "a vein of ore, in value about £20 per ton, which has been traced for more than a mile in length, which is 40 feet wide, and which has been cut at 300 feet deep, and is a natural deposit of rich mineral which heretofore has never been met with." True; it has "heretofore (April 28th, 1897) never been met with." The statement justifies us borrowing from the *Colonies and India* the appropriate word "audacious." And from the same source we cull "colossal." The company by the offer of "colossal" commissions had brokers beset with applications for subscriptions, and many gudgeons took the bait. And who reported upon these wonderful properties? Beyond W. J. Waterman, M.E., not one person known outside of his territory as an expert on mines or a recognized authority on mineralogy.

Attention is particularly called to this most wonderful combination because just such associations will eventually injure our mining industries and affect the welfare of the province. The extravagant claims of this "great company" will hurt us materially unless—unless they can show the ore.

STOCKS IN TORONTO.

H. McCutcheon, who has just returned from Toronto, states that while there, in discussing the sales of mining stocks with a broker, the Toronto man mentioned a company whose stock was selling there at ten cents a share, whereof the broker took five cents and the promoter three cents, leaving two cents toward development of the mine. The broker declined to give the name of the company. The demand for stocks is almost unabated, but people are demanding guarantees as to the pooling of promoters' stocks, which before they paid no attention to. Mr. H. McCutcheon instanced another company that had been selling stock at ten cents, but a lawyer who had done some work for the promoters got an offer of shares at one and one-half cents, and took 10,000 shares. There was a good demand, and the lawyer offered his at six and one-half cents and got it, selling all he had. Of course when this price was quoted, the sale of treasury stock stopped. There were many propositions on the market which looked much like wild-cats, and the probability was that the Ontario gold field was the nominal home of as many, if not more, of them than Kootenay. A good reliable proposition will not want for financial support, is Mr. H. McCutcheon's view of the situation in

SOME PROSPECTORS' LUCK.

The prospector who fails to strike it rich this summer can take a crumb of comfort in the old superstition that the finders of bonanza mines always come to violent ends, says the *Trall Creek Miner*. In the minds of many old-time gold hunters this idea is accepted as an undeniable fact, and they will be interested in the number of instances confirming the idea which somebody has dug up. According to this searcher after truth, the finders of no less than forty of the richest mines in the world have died by violent means. Of these two were shot, three were engulfed in their mines, and the others disappeared never to be heard of again. Dutch William, who discovered the Cariboo gold field, died a pauper, Marshal, who found the California placer gold, depended upon public charity for some time before his death. Montana Plummer, who found one of the richest mines in the world, was hanged. "Doughnut Bill," "Old Eureka" and "Nine-mile Clarks" were all killed in drunken rows. Johnny Horner of the Horner mine went flat broke and shot himself. The owner of the Homestake mine turned highwayman. Bill Fairweather of the Alder Gulch mines killed himself through his dissipation and excesses. The Indians killed Colonel Storey. An avalanche finished the discoverer of the Standard mine in California. And so on throughout the list. Yet most of us would take our chances on dying similar deaths, if we could only make similar finds.

A RARITY.

In these days when there is a tendency to boom all newly incorporated mining companies, and when nearly every proposition picked up claims that its company is "the only," it is refreshing to pick up one which does not lay claim to any more merit than the property represented and frankly acknowledges that while its property may be undeveloped yet it may on account of its position and the promise of a faithful expenditure of all monies received from the sale of treasury stock, turn into a good proposition. But this is a rarity.

COMPANIES' NAMES.

The confusion of names of mines and companies is annoying. The Registrar-General declines to register two companies by the same name, but sometimes all his care is turned to naught. Recently a Hether Bell company was incorporated in British Columbia, while there is a company of that name incorporated in Ontario and doing business near Roseland through trustees. It has occurred several times that a foreign company having the same name as a provincial company registers in the province, and hence more confusion.

STOCK QUOTATIONS

Of British Columbia Mining Companies in Vancouver.

Table of stock quotations for various mining companies in Vancouver, including Trail Creek, Ainsworth, Boundary, Camp McKinney, Camp Fair View, Nelson, Northport, and Slokan. Columns include Company Name, No. of Shares, Par Value, and Price.

Table of stock quotations for companies in Revelstoke, Cariboo, and Lillooet districts. Columns include Company Name, No. of Shares, Par Value, and Price.

Dividends paid to date are as follows: La. Roi, \$50,000; War Eagle, \$187,000; Rhinoceros, \$40,000; Reo, \$100,000; Sleight Star, \$300,000; Two Friends, \$20,000; Cariboo, \$414,416. It is estimated that the profits of the mines...

CORRESPONDENCE.

LILLOOET, April 22, 1897. EDITOR B. C. MINING CRITIC: SIR.—You will observe from the caption that I have reached my destination, and that, too, after a most exhaustive trip from which I have not yet recuperated. My route was via Clint. The heat was intense, and from the appearance of the low lands one would think we were in the midst of July, as everything was dry and apparently parched. But mark what a contrast! From wheels we changed to a sleigh, so that we could travel over Pavilion mountain, which is deeply covered with snow. Lillooet is full of miners and prospectors, as little work could be done by reason of the weather. Parties are now, nevertheless, leaving daily, notwithstanding the frequent rock, and snow slides which make travelling most dangerous. The machinery for the Golden Cache is lying here, and at present the company is busily building a road to the mine to enable it to transport it to its site. In about ten days it is expected that conditions will be such as to permit moving of the apparatus. There has been considerable placer mining on the bars along the Fraser river here with fairly good results. Bridge river is mentioned as being very valuable for placer and hydraulic mining and also for quartz. Business and living accommodations are scarce here, there being no offices or houses to let. A recent arrival felicitates himself upon having acquired the right to the occupancy of a desirable place whenever it may become vacant. Will send more news for the next issue.

ASSAY AND SMELTER VALUES.

Inexperienced prospectors and mine owners sometimes make serious mistakes concerning the actual market value of their ore, and these mistakes occasionally lead to the development of property from which they are never able to extract a pound of shipping ore says the Mining Investor. There is a vast difference between the assay value and the product value of ore, as every ore producer well knows, but which occasionally owners of prospects do not seem to know. One day recently a man was complaining bitterly because a shipment he had made failed to pay treatment charges, though the assay value of the ore was much above the cost, and he had expended much labor and cash in developing the property. By way of illustration we will take an ore that assays, say, ten ounces of silver, thirty per cent. lead and half an ounce of gold per ton; the silver would be worth \$6.60, the lead \$15 and the gold \$10.33, a total assay value of \$31.93. Suppose the cost of mining was \$3, freight \$8, and treatment \$10, a total of \$21; this is \$10 below the assay value of the ore, and, strange as it may seem, there are prospectors and others interested in mining who would insist that the ore can be mined at a profit. But the smelters would figure the value out in this way: Silver five per cent. off for loss in treatment, leaving \$6.27; lead, ten per cent. off for loss in treatment and \$1.25 deducted for freight charges from smelter to market, leaving \$6.73; gold, \$19 per ounce, making the value of the gold \$9.50; total value of the ore \$22.50. Deducted \$21 for mining, freight and treatment, as above, and we find that the producer would have but \$1.50 left, a very slender margin. Of course these are facts well known to all who have experience in selling ores, but other people are often misled by assay figures.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

A resident of British Columbia has just returned from the Australian gold fields and is now thoroughly satisfied with the Province and intends to resume his occupation of miner in this section. The success which he met with in Australia may be judged from his relation of the following incident: "When I decided to return, I was 'broke,' but managed to get together £7 and no more. This I knew would not defray the expenses home but with a hope born of desperation I approached one of the steamship company's officials and after strong persuasion, induced him to give me a ticket (for £7) to Honolulu. As you are probably aware, strangers who do not possess \$50.00 are not permitted to settle in the Hawaiian Islands. Well, like other passengers, I had to get off at Honolulu, and I then approached a customs officer with the request for a...

My plan worked like a charm. He sized me up and immediately escorted me to the ship with an emphatic command to take me off forthwith. Of course the captain had no alternative and thus I managed to get back. I'm glad that I am here and I guess, with the splendid prospects ahead, it will not be long before I can go to and from Australia first-class, and passage fully prepaid. But British Columbia suits me."

CONCENTRATES.

A number of Butte shares have changed hands during the last week.

A new town is being built on the Nelson and Fort Sheppard railroad about 2½ miles south of Nelson, named Quartz Creek.

The next meeting of the British Columbia Association of Mining Engineers will be held at New Denver about July 1st.

English subjects who have taken out only their first papers in the United States are not debarred from exercising the right of franchise in Canada.

A mining office to engage in the business of examining and exploiting mines has opened offices in Lillooet, under the general management of Samuel Gibbs.

Considerable mining is being done on the Quartz Creek, Wild Horse and Porcupine Creek, mines. The Dundee gold mine in the Poker Group is down about 120 feet and crosscutting. Latest assays show \$45 to the ton.

A local broker states that shares in Lillooet and Fairview properties are firmly held at 25 cents and that little stock is offered for sale. The mines are being developed by an English company and being rapidly pushed forward.

The Hastings (British Columbia) Exploration company was registered by Deacon & Co., 9 Great St. Helen's E. C., capital £100,000—97,000 A shares and 3,000 B shares—in £1 shares. It is chartered to do the usual business of an exploration company.

The Two Friends mine has shipped over 10 car-loads of ore this winter. Twenty three men are at present engaged on this property, but it is intended to close down soon, only retaining enough men to carry on development work during the summer.

At the sale held of the Orphan Boy mine, in the Big Bend, to satisfy a judgment held by J. W. Haskins the president of the Orphan Boy Gold Mining Company, Lt., the entire property of the company was knocked down to C. N. Davidson, of Vancouver, for the sum of \$6,200.

Extensive building is now going on in Rossland, but mining operations are held in abeyance until melting of the snow. Ten hotels are being added to the 42 already existing. It is not expected to resume very active mining operations until about the middle of

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, held recently in Montreal, the president observed that one of the most encouraging features in the situation was the wide attention the mines of British Columbia were attracting, and the great activity that prevails there.

The Union Coal Company of Comox has entered into contract with the smelter companies of Kootenay and Trill to supply them with 1,000 tons of first-class coke per month for the next year. This is independent of a smelter contract made by the Nanaimo Company and will result in driving Colorado and Pennsylvania from the field.

The Raven mine, on the northeastern end of Texada Island, which has just attained a depth of 25 feet has become one of the leading shippers of the island. It has 500 sacks of \$25 gold-copper ore taken from a seven-foot vein, which has held its width and value from the surface down. This property is near Stewart Bay, where a town is rapidly springing up.

All the warnings about the danger of suffering and starvation in Alaska seem to have had no force in keeping prospectors away from the Territory. The truth is, they are caught by the tales of rich fields, and they are only to be taught by hard experience that placer mining in a country where the season is only five months long and where grub is nearly worth its weight in gold is not a royal road to fortune.

The success of the Joggen's log rafts from the Columbia river in '95 and '96 has occasioned the formation of a combine of San Francisco lumber mill men, who have brought out Baines & Robertson and proposed bringing down two large rafts this season—one in June and one in August—from the Columbia river, each containing about 700 M feet, board measure. They figure a large saving in freights and the utilization of considerable refuse.

Certain Utah shipments for the week were as follows: From the Bullion-Beck mine, twenty carloads of ore; Bullion-Beck mill, ten carloads of concentrates; Humbug, three carloads of ore; North Star, two carloads of ore; Buckeye, one carload of ore; Dragon Iron mine, two carloads of ore daily; Noon's iron mine, one carload of ore daily; Mammoth mill, seven carloads of concentrates; Sioux mill, two carloads of concentrates.

At the present time British Columbia is the most fashionable country in the world for mining, and many exploration companies have been organized, with millions of aggregated capital, for the purpose of exploring the mines of British Columbia. This of course means a boom for that section. The British public is by no means afraid of silver, but on the contrary believes it has reached

Improve.—*Spokane Mining Stock Reporter.*

The following list comprises the principal brokers engaged in the purchase and sale of mines, mining stock, etc. in Vancouver: A. A. Boak & Co., Bosomworth & Co., J. M. Buxton & Co., T. H. Calland, Percy W. Charleson, J. Creagh & Co., David F. Douglas, C. S. Douglas, Chas. T. Dunbar, Jas. A. Fraser, G. W. Girdlestone & Son, J. Z. Hall, F. C. Innes, B. B. Johnston & Co., Mahon, McFarland & Mahon, T. Matthews, Mellon & Scott, McKinnon, De Beck & Co., Rankin & Thynne, Rand Bros., Frank S. Taggart.

JERVIS INLET.

A large number of speculators and miners have recently visited Jervis Inlet, where some extensive outcroppings are showing, notably at the Bonanza claim. The object has been to buy or bond. We are reliably informed that while the lodes and outcroppings are promising, the slight amount of development does not, as yet, justify payment of any large purchase prices, especially in view of the fact that the ore is of a low grade. It is not pretended that the future of the district is not promising, but present appearances do not warrant sanguine expectations.

NEWS NOTES.

At the Sherman House the following miners have registered: James Stokes, of Howe Sound; W. Holly, of Seattle; Henry Walker, of Spokane; Robert Richards, of Cariboo.

Within the past month six of the local mining brokers have altered and improved their offices. The convenience of customers as well as the owners has been considered, while design and color, pleasant to the eye, has not been neglected.

It is not uninteresting to learn from the estimates for the next fiscal year, made by the Dominion parliament, that an appropriation of \$20,324.67 has been added to the public debt sinking fund; that the charges of government management have been decreased \$14,750; that \$67,250 represents the sum which is not needed for penitentiaries. It is deplorable, however, that \$70,000 should be taken off the former appropriation for the geological surveys and \$5,754.42 for scientific institutions.

The BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING CRITIC is the name of a mining journal which is soon to make its appearance in Vancouver. This will be weekly, and is the first weekly paper devoted strictly to the mining interests issued in the province. A strong company is backing it, many of the large mining syndicates are advertising in its columns, and Maurice Gradwohl being its editor, there is certainly that the British Columbia Mining Critic will become a standard of mining

vestors and a valuable acquisition to all interested in this silver-lined and golden-noted province, British Columbia. It is well that Vancouver, the centre of mining interests, should possess such a paper, and it requires no great seer to prophesy that a silver future and golden prosperity awaits the Mining Currier. — *The Weekly Budget*. We entertain no unfriendly feelings towards you either, Messrs. Wilson, Fowler & Co. Really, the *Budget* is an interesting paper.

The steamer *Mexico* arrived at Port Townsend, April 26th, from Alaska. Two days before sailing from Juneau, Hugh Day, the mail-carrier from Juneau to Circle City, returned from the round trip, which he made in four months. He says that many miners, blinded by the glamor of gold, are going to Clondyke without provisions, and starvation is almost certain. Flour at Circle City is selling at \$4 per sack. At Clondyke there is none procurable at any price less than \$50 a sack, or \$1 a pound. At Forty Mile dog feed, consisting of ham so rotten it cannot be boiled indoors, but must be cooked in the open air because of the stench, is sold for 40 cents a pound. Reports from the new discoveries on the Clondyke continue to tell of marvellously rich finds. One letter says: "As for the strike here, it is the biggest thing I ever saw. At the head of Bonanza is the largest gulch. The stream is located for about twenty miles. The best claims cannot be bought to-day for \$5,000 to \$8,000. El Dorado, a tributary, is still better. It is good from head to mouth, and in places it is known to pay for 150 feet in width. One hundred dollars to the pan is a common thing." Wages at Clondyke are high, \$15 a day being the ruling rate. It is very probable, however, that this will be considerably reduced when the ingoing crowds reach the diggings. The lowest temperature recorded at Circle City this winter was 44 degrees below zero. The winter has been very mild throughout the entire valley.

The "British Columbia Mining Critic," Holmud Block, P. O. box 125, is the best mining advertising medium in British Columbia.

For reliable news see the "British Columbia Mining Critic."

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINERAL PRODUCTS.

Gold production of the Rossland mines, as per smelter returns for the year ending December 31st, 1896:

YEAR	NO. OZ.	VALUE
1893	1,170	\$ 23,404
1894	6,252	125,014
1895	39,264	786,271
1896	62,259	1,244,180
Total	108,945	\$2,177,869

Production of lode mining for silver in West Kootenay, British Columbia, for

SILVER.		
YEAR	OUNCES	VALUE
1887	17,090	\$ 17,331
1888	79,780	75,000
1889	53,192	17,975
1890	70,427	73,948
1891	4,000	4,000
1892	77,160	66,935
1893	227,000	195,000
1894	746,379	470,219
1895	1,406,522	977,229
1896	3,135,343	2,100,689
Total....	5,907,993	\$4,028,224

LEAD.		
YEAR	POUNDS	VALUE
1887
1888
1889
1890	113,000	\$ 5,895
1891	588,665	25,607
1892	1,768,420	72,505
1893	2,135,023	78,996
1894	5,662,523	169,875
1895	16,475,464	322,255
1896	24,199,977	721,384
Total..	50,943,072	\$1,606,427

Silver and lead values as per smelter returns from a few of the mines in the Slocan:

	OZ. SILVER PER TON	PER CENT. PER TON
Slocan.....	80 to 95	70 to 75
Reco.....	83 " 730	9 " 67
Goodenough...	167 " 507	15 " 67
Noble Five....	62 " 543	30 " 75
Last Chance...	135 " 238	35 " 78
Wonderful...	113 " 133	70 " 76
Ruth.....	40 " 125	15 " 57
Monitor.....	142 " 367	32 " 73
Wellington...	125 " 328	10 " 55
Whitewater...	72 " 326	10 " 65
Dardanelles...	149 " 470	15 " 55
Enterprise...	155 " 180	18 " 30
Two Friends...	248 " 380	38 " 32
Payne.....	80 " 175	35 " 70

The lowest values in the above indicate the lowest smelter returns from ore that is classified as 'carbonates.'

Total production of British Columbia for all years:

Gold, placer.....	\$57,704,855
Gold, lode.....	2,177,869
Silver.....	4,028,244
Lead.....	1,606,427
Copper.....	254,802
Other metals.....	25,000
Total.....	\$65,797,177

Production for each year from 1890 to 1896 inclusive:

1890.....	\$2,608,608
1891.....	3,456,902
1892.....	6,017,071
1893.....	3,588,413
1894.....	4,225,717
1895.....	5,655,302
1896.....	7,146,425

John H. Brown, with others, have gone to Harrison Lake. Their object is to locate the new townsite and attend to minor claims in which a company

PERSONAL.

J. Creagh has bonded the "Magnet" and "Daydawn" mineral claims at Slocan to a firm of Victoria capitalists for a large amount.

M. De Keyser Verblest has returned from a recent trip during which he tested his patent amalgamator. He reports excellent results.

Maurice Gintzburger has gone into the Slocan District, bent on important mining matters. He expects to return in about two weeks.

E. H. Johnson, of Toronto, is now at the Commercial Hotel. In the near future he intends to give attention to our mining industries.

J. D. Lein, with a party, left for Texada, to execute his contract for a shaft on the "Dexter" and "Index" claims, the property of the Golden Pacific Co.

John Cawthorn, from Rossland, is in Vancouver. He is interested in the Shakespeare Gold Mining Company, Wild Horse, British North American Mining and Development Co.

T. E. Julian has returned from a six weeks' trip to Harrison Lake, where he has been representing the interests of the Great West syndicate. His opinions regarding Harrison Lake do not agree with those of some local experts.

Mr. Samuel Gibbs, J. P., formerly of Vernon and more recently of Vancouver has located in Lillooet, where he is engaged in the business of notary public, conveyancer, mining and real estate agent. He proposes to make a specialty of mining business, however.

Mr. Thomas H. Fraser, M.E., of London, is a mining expert whose opinion is worth having. He has had extensive professional experience in most of the mining centres of the world, so he knows whereof he speaks. Mr. Fraser accompanied a party of mining men to Texada Island last week and visited the Silver Tip and Surprise mines, which gave much satisfaction. The Silver Tip has a shaft 90 feet in depth, and the ore now gives proof of what was predicted by Mr. Fraser before the development of the property.

Sherman House

A. MEYTYER & CANNON

PROPRIETORS.

323 Cordova Street and

332 Water Street,

VANCOUVER, B. C.

Special Accommodation for