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British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

WEEKLY EDITION.

Vol. I, No. 51.

VANCOUVER, B.C., SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1898.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

NOTICE.

All communications intended for The Editor should be sent direct to

THE EDITORIAL OFFICES,

319 CAMBIE STREET.

VANCOUVER, B. C.

The British Columbia Mining Critic is published weekly in the interest of Mining, Finance and Commerce, and for the protection of investors.

Subscription, Two Dollars a year, payable in advance.

FRANK S. TAGGART.

Editor and Managing Director.

British Columbia Mining Critic Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd.

Publishing Offices: 401 and 403 Cordova St., Vancouver, B.C.

EDITORIAL.

GOOD NEWS.

It really seems as if at last responsible metal industrialists, possessed alike of wealth and practical experience, may undertake, with advantage to themselves and profit to British Columbia, the increasingly necessary work of establishing an ore smelter and refinery at some convenient point on the southern mainland coast-probably on or near Burrard Inlet. The chief metal men of South Wales, the millionaire Vivians of Swansea, have for some time been represented by a purchasing agent in Vancouver, and have thus extended the range of their business dealings to British Columbia. The Vivians have thus also incidentally ascertained that there are apparently on the British Columbian mainland coast and adjoining islands ample and readily procurable supplies of copper-gold-silver gold, copper, silver-lead and other ores, together also with coal, fuel and lime and other fluxing materials for a successful local beginning of ore smelting and refining. The Vivians, having ascertained this, have associated themselves, as it seems, with the Ellietts of Port Barry, near Swansca, another strong body of metallurgic industrialists, and the two concerns are sending to Vancouver a special representative, charged with the duty of fully investigating coast smelting and refining opportunities in situ, and, if sufficiently favorably impressed, entrusted with the inception of practical measures having as their object the early building and operation of a smelter and refinery. The firms interested are not financial adventurers of the Sclover type, nor are they company promoters seeking large bonus and other profits in return for introducing British or American capital into a Coast smelting enterprise. They are concerns literally with millions sterling behind them, and no doubt mean business, if only they find a good business opportunity, which we confidently believe they will, greatly to the benefit of the promising if as yet infantile ! precious metal and copper mining industry of the Coast and Gulf Island districts of our Prevince.

THE PROPOSED INCREASED DUTY ON LEAD.

It would appear from trustworthy statistics, that Canada's present yearly consumption of lead and lead products amounts to under 10,000 tons, whilst the British Columbian output of 1897 came to more than 19,000 tons, such output representing most of Canada's lead production for the year. Hence already the home supply of lead is more than double a home demand, not likely largely to increase with great rapidity, whilst Canada's yield of lead is likely to increase very greatly in the course of the next few years. Hence the imposition of the proposed import duty on lead, of which so ample a home supply is available, would increase the consumer's price of lead by no means largely, though giving a little useful encouragement to home silver-lead smelting, especially in our own Province. In fact, as Mr. Wm. Braden of Pilot Bay puts it in an interesting letter which appears in the present issue of the Canadian Mining Review, the securing of most of the Canadian home market by means of the duty would simply give Canadian silver-lead smelting "a leg to stand on." But as Mr. Braden adds: "The surplus lead could be markated in the Orient, where in China, Japan and Corea there is a market for several thousand tons per annum of lead and lead products. Lead ore from the Kootenay district has up to now largely benefitted American railways. With smelters, refineries and factories in Canada, and to get the full benefit of the great Crows Nest coal fields, a market must be made for the coal and coke. Thus would this duty directly or indirectly benefit laboring classes and merchants all over Canada, enabling Canada to assert to the United States and to the world at large her independent commercial policy in this respect at least, and become a large exporter of lead to the no small gratification of the hearts of loyal Canadians."

Under such circumstances the experiment of imposing a higher duty on lead imports into Canada would seem at least to be worth a trial. The United States are by various fiscal arrangements, doing their utmost to secure for their country's industrialists almost a monopoly in regard to the smelting and refining of Canadian precious metal, copper and silver-lead ores. It therefore seems opportune for our Dominion rulers to take countervailing action in defence of seriously threatened industrial opportunities of our country.

The Con. Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Co., Limited, is now opening the ditches on its property at Quesnelles Forks and has purchased from Schaw, Ingram, Batcher & Co., of Sacramento, Cal., a large quantity of 40-inch heavy pipe for carrying the water across the ravines. Mr. Wm. Schaw, the head of the firm, was in Vancouver a few days ago on his way east.

NO NEED FOR HYSTERICS.

Our contemporary, the Daily Province, of Monday last, strongly advocated the immediate construction by the Dominion Government of the Stickine-Teslin railroad. This is right enough, though the Province might well have added the suggestion, that the Dominion Government also take steps to supplement the line as early as possible by the almost absolutely necessary further connection with an open port in Northern British Columbia, free from all opportunity for obstruction on the part of United States officialism. Our contemporary, however, added, as representing "fundamental facts" recognized by it, the following diatribe: "The Senate has been flimflammed and buncoed by an unscrupulous American adventurer, and some means must be found at once of undoing the mischief that has been done." This, of course, is "buncombe," and as such, in vain attempt to hide the forcible feebleness of the utterance, was appropriately clothed in the very largest of type. The Senate rejected the Yukon agreement, not by reason of the utterances of Mr. Livernash of the San Francisco Examiner, but on the ground of its incurable inherent defect, as representing one of the worst of bad bargains ever made by a Canadian minister of state. No persons recognize this fact better than the people of Vancouver, or they would have assembled, not by fifty or so, but to the number of several thousand at last Saturday's town's meeting, and instead of passing-as they did-very sensible neutral-tinted business-like resolutions, have indignantly condemned the Senate's action. Not having adopted the latter policy, it is quite clear that Vancouver public opinion recognizes that the making of a new and better Yukon railroad bargain is obviously the right policy for the Dominion government to adopt.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

In the present number of the Canadian Mining Review Mr. Henry Croasdaile makes the following plea in support of the placing of an export duty on British Columbia ore shipments in order-more fully than this could be accomplished by an import duty on lead-to protect the young and sorely harassed Canadian industry of ore smelting and refining. Mr. Croasdaile says—we epitomize his remarks: At first it may appear as if an export duty on mineral shipments to the United States would have an injurious effect upon the mining industry of British Columbia and that making the large market south of us more difficult of access to the miner would result in benefiting the British Columbia smelters at his expense. doubt at first this might be to some extent the case; but I think it would be found in practice that the !

local smelters would adhere to a low treatment rate to meet an almost certain reduction in railway rates on ores going out of the country, a reduction which would probably be equivalent to the export duty. To my mind the question resolves itself into this: Is legislation to be for the benefit of the few or the many? If all the ores in Kootenay were smelted at home, it would mean millions of dollars being spent in the country which are now spent elsewhere, and of which not a dollar comes back. It would mean an immense increase in the population of men earning high wages and spending money derived from Canadian ores in the country to which it belongs, and it would mean that mining would receive an immense impetus in the district, that as the demand of the home market increased for various ores, and for fluxes that would only be mined for local smelters, so would development work and prospecting increase also, and thus an export duty that would foster home smelting, is bound to aid the expansion of mining instead of retarding it.

Mr. Croasdaile, as general manager of a company, the Hall mines, that is largely interested in smelting, must of course be regarded as one writing admittedly from the standpoint of one whose business interests would be served by the imposition of such a duty as he suggests. He nevertheless certainly makes something of a case in favor of the imposition by showing that it might, after all, help to build up a big national industry at no great temporary cost to the general community. Of course, on the other hand, the railroad companies running south might refuse to reduce their freight charges and then it would be the more easy for the as yet few smelting organizations of British Columbia to combine and thereafter increase unduly their ore treatment charges.

Almost as surely as the sun rises and sets daily, will there, if Oriental immigration and employment be encouraged as it now is, be a big dispute in the early future between white labor and capital in the Pacific Canada. The British worker in our mines, in our lumber mills and on our railroads will not long submit to be gradually ousted more and more fully from his wonted spheres of work by hosts of Chinese and Japanese. Already capital and labor are at variance on the issue. Our Boards of Trade, representing British Columbian employing capitalists, disapprove the imposition by the Provincial Legislature of drastic restrictions on the engagement of Japanese in our collieries and in provincially chartered undertakings and agree with the Japanese Consul, Mr. Shimizu, in asking for a Dominion veto on the intended Provincial legislation. On the other hand it is absolutely certain that a large majority in British Columbia decidedly approves all reasonable measures that are devised

with a view to reduce the danger of a large further orientalization of our British Columbia community. They know how easy it may be for Japan, with a population of 40,000,000 people, vast numbers of whom live at home in a state of semi-starvation, to swamp our present working while population. An influx of 60,000 Japanese would at once accomplish this, and such an emigration the greatly overcrowded islands of Nippon could easily send forth in the course of less than one short summer. The chance of such a contingency is of course greatly increased by the fact that Russia, Germany and France together mean to reduce to a minimum Japan's chances of finding large new opportunities in China for her surplus population.

Complete accident compensation to the colliery workers of the United Kingdom would seem to have been effected under the Employers' Liability Act, which comes into force in July, on terms that should be very easy to the colliery owners, if they will only insure their workers, yet terms that will provide very fairly for the latter in case of accident. Such insurance will add, it is said, one penny or two cents a ton to the cost of coal at the pit mouthprobably about 2 per cent. on value. This difference, which means everything to the colliery worker, will not add very greatly to the coal bills of consumers. Under similar legislation, which might well be adopted some day in British Columbia, especially in the case of our collieries, similar compensation might probably be secured at an insurance cost of about 6 cents a ton.

The Victoria Times' editorial writer has lately done good service to the Province in speaking frankly as to the state of the various Klondike routes, including that by the Stickine, it being worse than folly to suppress facts. It were well, however, were he equally careful not to suppress facts when talking, as he too usually does, uttering nauseating nonsense at random, concerning the exploits of British arms in Egypt and the Soudan, where a triumphant victory is now being gained for freedom and civilization against a horde of Arab marauders and murderers, who have long preyed upon the hapless Soudanese. The Victoria Times stigmatizes one of the noblest wars ever waged in the cause of humanity, as a campaign of murder and altogether unworthy of our great empire. All which shows that though the Victoria Times' "young man from Glasgow"-whose people are unlike himself in being unusually levelheaded-has acquired some knowledge of the Klondike, he has yet everything to learn about the work which British valor and British enterprise are together accomplishing on the plains of Egypt.

A COAST SMELTER LIKELY.

Messrs. Vivian & Sons, of Swansea, South Wales, and the Elliott Metal Company of Barry Port, near Swansea, have, as a result of the success of trials, decided to come into the British Columbia market for the purchase of all kinds of ores and furnace products. They have arranged for sole representation through Mr. W. Pellew Harvey, F. C. S., of Vancouver, who has for several years been acting for the former firm. Principals of these firms are now en route for this country to study the possibilities of making a success of erecting smelting works for the local treatment of the produce of the mines. In the meantime it has been decided to pay spot cash at Vancouver through their agent, on his certificate of assay and weight, for any quantity and quality of ore. Shipments of over 250 pounds in weight will be accepted and paid for at current rates. By this means the prospector will be in a position to obtain assay certificates, endorsed by these firms, at a nominal cost, the basis being such that the value of the parcel will be placed against the usual assay fee and the balance forwarded to the shipper.

Mr. Pellew Harvey is increasing his plant, and intends to undertake any kind of ore testing on a large scale, including the milling of gold ores, as well as smelting ton lots of ores, also melting and refining of gold and silver bullion. The plant, when completed, will be the most complete for metallurgical tests in Canada.

THE DUTY ON OUR LEAD EXPORTS.

It is estimated that the United States imposed duty to the extent of \$36,783.75 on British Columbia lead shipped across the border in March. The time has surely come for a counter vailing duty on lead imported into our own country, a duty which should also aid our declining silver-lead smelting industry.

LUXURY IN BEDDING.

Travelers in Canada visiting the Ancient Capital have often remarked on the perfection of the bedding in the Chateau Frontenac, at Quebec. It is said to be the most luxurious bed in existence, being made on sanitary principles and embodying all the newest inventions in springs and upholstering. It is the same bed as supplied to the Waldorf Astoria, the Palace Hotel of New York, and was made for the Chateau Frontenac by the Alaska Feather & Down Company of Montreal.

Dealers, private persons or institutions wishing to receive a description and price list of this bed may get it by writing to the secretary of the company at their office, 290 Guy street, Montreal.

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.

ANOTHER LE ROI DIVIDEND.

The Le Roi Mining & Smelting Company has declared another dividend of \$50,000. Meanwhile the mine continues at the lower depths now reached to yield a steady daily output of about 200 tons.

THE BRITISH AMERICA CORPORATION.

The Hon. C. H. Mackintosh, Mr. W. A. Carlyle, Mr. D. J. Macdonald, and other leading representatives of the Corporation meet in Rossland in conference next week, and, as a result, important immediate developments of the Corporation's plans may be expected.

MAJOR WALSH'S ESTIMATE.

It is stated that Major Walsh's estimate of this season's gold yield of the Yukon is in round figures \$30,000,000. The Yukon administrator therefore places a higher than average value on this expectancy, the more usual figures quoted by responsible Yukoners ranging between \$10,000,000 and \$20,000,000.

A COAL SHIPPING RECORD.

The New Vancouver Coal Company of Nanaimo succeeded last week in loading no less than 6,000 tons of coal aboard the whaleback collier steamship Titania, within the space of twenty-one hours, and it is said that when the company adds new bunkers and other appliances to its coaling gear, even the limited time thus occupied in loading a big shipment will be greatly reduced.

KLONDIKE HYDRAULICING.

A plant worth nearly \$250,000 has been ordered for the working of the hydraulic gold gravels on Hunker creek, recently located by Mr. Robert Anderson. This is the property in which Messrs. Rand & Carroll of Vancouver are interested. Wealthy English capitalists have taken up the property to the immediate considerable benefit of Mr. Anderson and his associates, and it is hoped to the ultimate large profit of all concerned. The greatest interest naturally attaches to this, which will be the pioneer hydraulicing effort in a country of exceptional difficulty for such work. Indeed success is only rendered likely by the quite exceptional richness that is reported of the Hunker creek gravels.

IN THE LILLOOET COUNTRY.

The contractor for the Golden Cache dam is reported to be pushing work well ahead. The Lillooet mining season is on the whole opening about a month later than usual, and already many men are waiting their opportunity to get into the Bridge River district, where some have for weeks been Their provisions are, however, rather short, and they find much trouble in replenishing their tood stocks just now, as neither the river nor the trails are in condition for present transit. There is every reason to expect the settlement of a large mining camp this season in the Bridge River district. A slight accident is reported from the Forty Thieves group, where one of the workers lately lost parts of three fingers by the premature explosion of a blast.

A CROWDED PASS.

The Mining Critic's representative in the Yukon, Mr. A. McLean, writing from Lake Tagish on March 3rd; states that the White pass is so crowded with Yukon travelers that general progress is made very slow indeed. At one point there are at least 800 tents pitched close beside each other, implying a temporary camp of at least 2,000 persons. It is stated that if the United States and Canadian authorities do not take steps to cremate the bodies of several thousand dead horses, ere the warm weather comes, the stench arising from decomposition will not only cause great sickness but actually render travel by the route quite unbearable.

AN INVESTING VISITOR.

Mr. J. Oakley Maund of London, England, who represents large English moneyed interests, has lately visited Victoria and Vancouver, whence he has now departed homeward. Mr. Maund is the purchaser from Mr. Thos. Dunn of Vancouver of several Klondike claims. He was also largely interested in the sadly disappointing venture of the Takush Harbor Yellow Cedar Lumbering Company, but this, notwithstanding, has, it is understood, under consideration important offers of British Columbia mining properties.

THE SNOWFALL AT CARIBOO.

The depth of snow at various Cariboo points, as furnished by Mr. G. T. Hall of 150-Mile House, was on April 2nd as follows: Beaver lake, 1½ feet; Quesnelle Forks, 2½ feet; Keithley creek, 3 feet, 10 inches, mouth of Showshoe creek, 5 feet; head of Snowshoe creek, 6 feet; Snowshoe mountain, 8 feet. The snow is, however, now melting steadily, and operations will very soon recommence throughout Cariboo.

HIS LAST OFFICIAL WORK.

Mr. D. J. Macdonald, who has just resigned the Provincial Inspectorship of Mines to enter the service of the British America Corporation, has returned from Boundary Creek district. On the way from Grand Forks he inspected the Winnipeg, Golden Crown, Old Ironsides, and other properties having men at work underground. Later he visited the Jewel and B. C. mines. He left at each mine a copy of the regulations that will sooner or later have to be conformed to, and notified those in charge of the mines having vertical ladders, that the regulations provide that ladders may not exceed twenty feet in length without a landing, and that they may not be placed vertically in the shaft. Other provisions for the protection and safety of the men passing up or down shafts or working below ground, were also shown. The appointment of such an inspector is consequently bearing very good fruit in securing safety and comfort for the Province's mine workers. and there is no doubt that Mr. Macdonald's successor, whoever he may be, will continue inspection work on the same lines.

THE GOLDEN RIVER QUESNELLE COMPANY.

This company, which has spent no less than \$300,000 on a vast work of river dam construction, hopes to make a first clean-up of part of the bed of the South fork of the Quesnelle river this season. British Columbia now awaits with engrossing interest the results thus accruing, as they should surely indicate whether a very great engineering enterprise is to prove a very large pecuniary success or, on the other hand, turn out a sadly disappointing failure. Almost everything seemingly depends on the success of the engineer's effort to combat giant water forces of nature and for certain seasons restrain their tremendous pressure above, and possibly in part also below the bed of the rapid Quesnelle river. That gold and much gold lies in the river's bed seems to be sufficiently assured. The question is, Can it be got out ere the water again rushes in to prevent all further working in, about and under the river's rocks and gravels?

BRITISH AMERICA CORPORATION.

A deal is on for the purchase of the Pathfinder mine, on the North fork of the Kettle river, by the British America Corporation, for \$90,000. A bond was given on the property a few weeks ago, and the London syndicate has been operating the mine with a large force. The deal is not yet consummated, but it is said by those who know that the Corporation will take up the bond upon the arrival of the Hon. C. H. Mackintosh, within a few days. The Pathfinder is owned by the Pathfinder Mining, Reduction and Investment Company, Limited, of

Grand Forks. Most of the stock is held in Grand Forks and Rossland. The property is the principal claim on Pathfinder mountain, which is becoming famous for promising properties. It is about fifteen miles north of Grand Forks. The claim was located by Messrs. W. A. Pfeifer and T. I. Parkinson, and the latter has been president of the company and superintendent of the mine. It is said that no dead work has ever been done on the Pathfinder. shaft has been sunk about sixty feet, and the ledge was cross-cut at that depth, showing a well-defined vein of good ore. A later shaft was sunk about 300 feet east of the first one, and here it is reported that thirty-two feet of clean ore was encountered, average assays of which gave about \$50 in copper and gold. The claim is equipped with the usual outbuilding, and the shafts with whims.

THE KLONDIKE HYDRAULIC, LIMITED.

At the recent statutory meeting held in London, England, in connection with this Alaskan (not Klondike) mining undertaking, the chairman of the meeting, Mr. Pye, stated that the vendor of the company's mine properties, a man named Runble, had agreed to take his purchase money in ordinary shares, receiving in addition certain promoter's fees. The chairman, so far as he could remember, estimated that £52,000 or £53,000 of preference shares had been taken up, providing sufficient working capital. He added that the chairman of the company, Mr. Williams, had gone to Klondike (for which read "Alaska") to see if the company had really got the mine property and gold stated by the vendor. If so, the necessary mine machinery would be promptly put in, and Mr. Chairman pro-tempore Pye added that he thought (in which thought such a hazily informed gentleman is almost "dead sure" to be quite mistaken) that the mine machinery would be in order by August and a month's work got in this season. The MINING CRITIC ventures to predict, with a good deal of confidence, that the Klondike Hydraulic's stockholders won't receive any dividends worth mentioning from a company so curiously managed as is theirs-a company which gets in a large amount of capital long before even its directors are at all sure that the vendor of the properties they are acquiring is able to do what he promised, in the way of not only transferring rich Alaskan gold gravels, but also in handing over at far less than its cash value a big amount of gold said to have been actually got out. Under present circumstances only a fool will buy any stock in such a company as the Klondike Hydraulic-a concern which most reputable English financial issues have clearly exposed as a most dubious venture. which desirable work of investor warning the MINING CRITIC is also well pleased to lend a helping hand.

TO KLONDIKE BY BALLOON.

Mr. Antoine Variele of the French Geographical Society, who recently arrived in New York, intends to make a balloon trip from Juneau to the Klondike. The New York Sun states that there are about a dozen persons in the party. Arthur Tervagne, LL. D., is the secretary of the expedition, and is also correspondent of the Figaro.

Mr. Variele, the head of the expedition, is a man of about 46 years of age, and a well-known engineer and inventor in France. He invented a new method to direct a balloon with the aid of a rope and a steering sail, and this method he has succeeded with in two trips, the one from Paris to Thencuil in the south of France, the other from Paris to Hamburg.

The balloon is cylinder-shaped, has a sail beneath it, and is equipped with electric lights and a search-light. The expedition carries with it all the modern instruments of geographical and topographical science. Carrier pigeons will be employed to send back news of the progress of the expedition.

The balloon will carry about 7.300 pounds. A feature of it is the "autolesteur," as its inventor, Mr. Variele, calls it. "Automatic ballasting apparatus" is perhaps the proper translation. It enables the æronaut to direct the balloon to a certain degree. The members of the expedition are stopping here only until news comes from Juneau that the apparatus is ready for generating the hydrogen with which the balloon is to be inflated. When that is ready the party will go directly to Juneau, and, if the wind is favorable, the trip to the Klondike will be made at once.

Photographs will be taken from the balloon en route. The cost of the expedition is borne partly by the French Geographical Society and partly by the members of the party.

Mr. Varicle apprehends no accident, and believes that Andree is not lost. He thinks that we shall hear from Andree in September or October. If the trip to the Klondike is successful, he contemplates making a balloon voyage to Spitzbergen and another over the Sahara. A geologist and a chemist accompany the party.

SALE OF RAILROAD CHARTERS.

At a recent general meeting of the London and Vancouver Finance & Development Company, Limited, recently held in London, England, it was announced that the company had sold its two British Columbia railroad charters at a cash profit of $\pounds 4,000$. The ompany had also acquired a number of promising British Columbia mine prospects, and though more capital was greatly needed and must be got in, the company would that day declare a dividend of 20 per cent. on a paid-up capital which appears to be £36,207.

MORE AUSTRALIAN KLONDIKERS.

The arrival this week in Vancouver, by the steamship Cape Otway, of rather more than 200 Australian travelers to the northern gold fields has naturally gladdened the hearts of the local outfit-The coming of these venturers-most of whom are practical miners of good physique-tends to corroborate the estimate that Australia will send this season to the Yukon a mining contingent of between a thousand and two thousand persons, a total that will more probably run nearer the larger than the smaller figure. Many of the Antipodeans now setting out for the north hail from the gold fields of Western Australia. They are accordingly accustomed to a hard and trying climate, though its severity results from exactly opposite characteristics to those of the Yukon, the Westralian mine country being a blazing hot and arid land. In one respect it, however, fully resembles Klondike in being a land of barren desolation as regards practically everything save gold.

LONDON LETTER.

[From our own Correspondent.] March 26, 1898.

In one respect at least Canada has been generously treated. I refer to the way in which her mines have been brought to the attention of Europe by various writers, both in the press and by the more solid and pretentious essays and booklets which have already appeared on this side. Some of the latter can hardly claim to be included in the category of books; they are mere pamphlets, and not likely to enjoy more than the ephemeral existence meted out to the productions of the ordinary run of pamphleteers in all ages. But they serve their turn, and are excellent advertisements for the Dominion and her mining resources. As, however, these are mostly for home consumption, and are hardly likely to reach your side, I am taking the trouble to collect briefest details of the chief ones issued during the past six months, thinking that they may possibly be of interest to those of your readers who may desire to follow all the developments on this side, and will forward same in an early dispatch.

Generally speaking, the British Columbia market, with a few exceptions, has been firm in the face of adversity. While prices in the general mining section have been crumbling away British Columbia and Klondike shares have held their own, apart from the exceptions mentioned, and we all hope that it will not be long before the fledgling will be strong enough to run alone. At the present time it is in lending strings, but then this is an experience which young markets like young children have to undergo. B. A. C's. have been flat in sympathy with the alarming weakness of all the Whitaker

Wright interests, and Hall Mines are down 1/8, but Bonanzas are firmer, and Alaska Gold Fields have recovered now that the guarantors of the new issue are satisfied that they have secured a reversion of most of the new issue of capital. Waverleys have dropped, but recovered sharply on inside support. I saw yesterday a nice little bar of silver obtained from a ton of Waverley ore. It weighed 86 ounces, and Grant Govan was naturally pleased with it. The Turner-Pooley Co's, are dull, but the Tupper interests are well maintained, and Whitewaters have been bought. In local shares, not many of which at present command a free market here, Dundees are 18 9d, and Athabascas have been largely bought. I hear that the latter company has just been taken over, lock, stock and barrel, by a strong London syndicate, that machinery has been ordered, and that the transformation will soon be consummated. This is one of the events of the War Eagles are a shade harder at par, but Golden Caches are never mentioned, and dealings in Le Rois are a matter of negotiation.

I just hear that the Associated Gold Mines of British Columbia, full particulars of which were forwarded in my last letter, is backed up by the Universal Stock Exchange crowd. I am sorry for this, for British Columbia does not want to be exploited by such people as that astute Yankee, McKusick, or his friends. More anon.

Mr. Ogilvie is busy lecturing. More strength to his elbow: he is an unostentatious lecturer, who should do much good for British Columbia while he is here.

The Ingersoll-Sergeaut Drill Company declared a 10 per cent. dividend at the meeting held here this week, a very good beginning.

I hear today that a Mr. McDonald has arrived from the Province. I suppose that this is not the McDonald who safeguards the interests of the Halls of Nelson. If it is, he is a day behind the fair, for the meeting of the Hall Mines Company was held yesterday. Mr. W. Hanson Boorne sailed on Wednesday for Canada. This gentleman, who is vice-president of the Smuggler Company, is understood to have put through several deals whilst he has been in this country. If he has done so, then he has been very successful, for few visitors to this country during the past few months can boast as much. I understand that Mr. Morris Catton, one of the promoters of the Turner-Pooley Co's., will return to the Province in August next. This gentleman only arrived from British Columbia last week. He regards the outlook both in British Columbia and Klondike as very promising.

Mr. Willows, the chairman of the Klondike Hydraulic, is now on his way to San Francisco in the interests of the Klondike Hydraulic Company. This company held its statutory meeting this week, and

it was thereat stated that about £55,000 had been subscribed. Had it not been for 'the fact that I know that a very large proportion of this sum was subscribed by underwriters I should certainly have said that those who had put up their money had proved the truth of Carlyle's maxim about fools. This is a concern which you may remember was formed to acquire certain claims on "Bonanza creek, Klondike, Alaska, U. S. A.," and the accumulation of gold dust lodged in old tin cans in a cabin on one of the claims, and amounting to £46,000 (sic). The English public is, of course, dreadfully gullible, and will swallow very nearly anything put before them, but how they, and particularly the underwriters, could manage to digest this company's gaudy prospectus is more than I could understand at the time.

At the meeting of the Hall Mines shareholders on Tuesday it came out that the holding of the Halls had been reduced to about 20,000 shares. At the outset, I believe, they held something like 70,-000 shares in the company, but realizations to provide funds have brought down the total to the figure mentioned. The meeting was purely formal. and convened with the object of making certain necessary alterations in the articles of association in order to obtain quotation in the official list published by the Stock Exchange committee. The principal alteration was in the period of notification, which the Canadian shareholders have hitherto received. For the future they will be on the same footing with shareholders resident in Europe, and, in explaining this step, Sir Joseph Trutch referred to the fact of the large reduction in the holding of the chief shareholders in British Columbia (the Halls), to which I have already referred. Another alteration was to the effect that the redemption of the preference capital shall only be sanctioned by special resolution. There were minor alterations, but the meeting was purely formal and only a few shareholders turned up, which is a way shareholders in mining companies have in this country. They stay away from meetings which they ought to attend, and when things go wrong they turn up in force and give vent to their feelings. This is very much, in my opinion, like shutting the stable door after the steed is stolen, but humanity is mucy the same the world over.

NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED IN LONDON — EXTRACTS FROM SOMERSET HOUSE REGISTER.

Big Valley Creek Gold Mines, Limited, registered March 7, by Ramsden & Co., 150 Leadenhall street, with a capital of £125,000 in £1 shares. Object, to acquire the business and undertaking of the Big Valley Creek Gold Mines, Limited, incorporated 1896, upon the terms of an agreement expressed to be made between the said old company of one part and this company of the other part, to develop and

turn to account the said property in such manner as the company shall see fit, and further, to acquire in Canada, North America, New Zealand, Australia, Africa, or elsewhere, any other mines, mining, water and other rights, grants, leases, claims, concessions, options of purchase, alluvial ground, etc., in any part of the world; to search for, win, quarry, crush, wash, dress, reduce, smelt, refine and prepare for market metalliferous quartz and ore and other metal and mineral substances and precious stones; to deal in and with mortgages, patent rights, etc.; also as brewers, maltsters, hop merchants, corn merchants, distillers, wine and spirit merchants, coopers, bottlers, bottle and bottlestopper manufacturers, manufacturers of and dealers in aerated and mineral waters; as hotel and restaurant keepers, farmers, dairymen, ice merchants, coppersmiths, etc. The number of directors is to be not less than three nor more than seven; the subscribers are to appoint the first. Qualification, £250. Remuneration, £150 each per annum, and £200 for the chairman. Registered office, 6 Great St. Helens, E. C.

Northwestern Exploration Company, Limited, registered March 9, by C W. M. Harrison, 90 Cannon street, E. C., with a capital of £20,000 in £1 shares. Object, to acquire, prospect, explore, work, develop, and deal with any lands, concessions, mining claims, or properties, mines, mineral rights, etc.

Yukon & British Columbia Syndicate, Limited, registered March 9, by G. A. Wingfield, 52 Queen Victoria street, E. C., with a capital of £2,000 in £1 shares. Object, to carry on business as fully indicated by the title. The first directors are C. C. Osborne and F. C. Morgan. Qualification, £50. Remuneration as fixed by the company.

Canadian & Australian Development Corporation, Limited, registered on March 9, by Snell & Co., 1 and 2, George street, Mansion House, with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. Object, to acquire mines, mining, water and other rights, grants, leases, claims, concessions, options of purchase, auriferous land, mineral deposits, alluvial ground, etc., in Canada, the United States of America, Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania or any dependency of the United Kingdom or any foreign country, either absolutely, optionally, or conditionally, and either solely or jointly with others; to develop, deal with, work, and turn to account the said properties in such manner as the company shall see fit; to acquire any lands and estates, and to develop, deal with and turn to account the same by draining, clearing, farming, and building thereon; to construct, maintain and work rail or tram roads, wharves, docks, piers, warehouses, etc.

Canadian United Gold Fields, registered March 2nd, by Harries & Co., 38 Nicholas Lane, E. C. Capital, £250,000 in £1 shares. Object, to acquire | Or P. O. Box 423

certain mines, mining rights, etc., in British Columbia, upon th. terms of an agreement bearing date of March wh, and expressed to be made between the Alliance Syndicate, Limited, of the first part, and J. I. Symon as trustee for and on behalf of this company of the second part, and a second agreement bearing same date and made between W. J. R. Cowell and the Victoria Metallurgical Works Company, Limited, of the one part, and J. L. Symon for this company of the other part, and to develop, deal with, work and turn to account the said properties; and further, to acquire any other mines, mining, water and other rights, grants, leases, claims, concessions, mineral deposits, alluvial ground, etc., in any part of the world.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADIAN MINING LIST March 25, 1898

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in \$1 shrs \$187,000) Multiples of 100 shares 48 6d58 6d

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.

Mining Stock Quotations

Corrected Weekly by Percy W. Charleson, Mining Broker, 417 Hastings Street, Vancouver.

COMPANY	NO OF SHARES	PAR VALUE	PRICE
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St Keverne. Two Friends. Wonderful. Washington Columbia-Cariboo MISCELLANEOUS. Alpha Bell. Cariboo (Camp McK.). Cariboo Hydraulic Con. Channe Fern G. M. Co. Golden Cache. Occidental M. & M. Co. Cid Ironsides. Smuggler Tin Horn. Van Anda Winches'er Fire Mountain, B. C. Mining Prospectors' Ex. Ltd.	1,000,000 240,000 1,000,000 1,000,000 1,000,000 5,000,000 5,000,000 1,000,000 1,000,000 1,000,000 1,000,000	1 00 00 00 1 00 00 1 00 00 1 00 00 00 1 00 00	863.00 4883.00 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 8

DIVIDENDS.

Dividends paid to date are as follows: Le Roi. \$75,000; War Eagle (Old Company). \$217,500; Rambler-Carlboo. \$40,000; Reco. \$250,000; Slocan Star. \$350,000; Carlboo. \$180,000; Dominion Developing. \$183,153. The Hall Mines, Limited, has also paid dividends on preferred and ordinary stock.

ESTIMATED PROPITS.

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
Ideho 240,000	Noble Five
Poorman 50.000	Northern Belle
Duth 218 (W)	Antoing.
White mater (ald a'nter) 101100	Supplied
Washington 93.003	Monitor
Slocan Roy 25,000	Last Chance boloo
2101m2 11011 111111111111111111111111111	Fern 10,000

CARIBOO AND KLONDIKE.

James Moore, of Quesnelle Forks, B. C., who came 'o Cariboo in the early days of 1858, writes to the Spokane Spokesman-Review the following letter, which goes far to show what most old British Columbia miners believe, that old Cariboo was really richer in gold than Klondike:

"I have hunted up some old records of output of gold from claims in early days in Cariboo. Some of your readers may be interested in comparing this output with the returns from Kloudike. Cariboo is on the overland route from Spokane to Kloudike, the whole route being in the gold belt.

"I have confined the investigation to Williams creek, one of the most famous of the gold-producing streams of the sixties. The records here show that the following companies cleaned up the amounts set after their names during the days when gold mining on Williams creek was in active operation:

"Cameron Company, \$1,000,000; Ruby Company, \$900,060; Tinker Company, \$700,000, most of this in 300 feet of ground; Aurora Company, \$500,000; Caledonia Company, \$500,000, in fifteen months' work; Diller Company, \$400,000, in 300 feet of ground; Prince of Wales Company, \$400,000; Moffat Company, \$300,000; Watty Company, \$80,000; Dead Broke Company, \$70,000; Ericson Company, \$350,000; Nigger Company, \$135,000. The Beauregard Company has cleaned up as high as 800 ounces per 24 hours' work; the Never Sweat Company from 60 ounces to 200 ounces in 24 hours' work, and the New York Company from 100 to 200 ounces in 24 hours' work. A number of other claims on this creek paid in the same proportion.

"Now as for pan prospects, we hear of as high as \$800 to the pan in Klondike. Compare that with pan prospects in Cariboo. The highest prospect I now remember was \$1,650 to one pan. I also remember \$6,500 in five pans on Williams creek.

"As regards the time of parties starting via Ashcroft or Kamloops on the overland route, it would be useless to leave the mouth of Quesnelle at the earliest before the first of May.

"The approximate distance from Ashcroft to Quesnelle mouth is 200 miles; from Quesnelle mouth to Hazelton, 300 miles; from Hazleton to Telegraph creek, 250 miles; from Telegraph creek to Teslin lake, 135 miles. These distances are subject to correction, as the route in most places has not been measured, After the first of May good feed for animals can be had along the route."

A GOLD-DIGGING BOAT.

A party of Newark men have formed a Klondike mining company. They will go up the Yukon river in a boat built by themselves from their own designs and equipped with dredging machinery of patterns which they have devised, The company calls itself the Newark & Yukon Dredging and Mining Company. Several days ago the president, F. C. Dey, of 124 Summer avenue, Newark, left for Seattle, where he is to arrange for the transportation of the entire party and the machinery from there to St. Michael. It is proposed to go from Seattle about the middle of May. President Dey will procure the necessary lumber for the boat at Seattle, but the machinery he took with him. It fills a car.

The boat is to be a catamaran. It will be 70 feet long, and the total width from the outer gunwhale of one boat to the outer gunwhale of the other will be about 25 feet. The craft will draw only 2½ feet of water. There will be a big stern wheel, and the same power which turns this wheel will also be used to run the dredging machinery. Near the bow of the boat will be a derrick and attached to one arm of the derrick will be an endless chain of buckets. The derrick arm may be thrust into the water to a depth of 28 feet.

On the twin boats of the catamaran will rest a house in which the members of the party will live. Over the deckhouse will be a trough about seventy feet long, and as the buckets on the endless chain rise they will dump the earth they contain into the trough. The trough will have a slant aft, and water will be poured into it near the bow by means of a pump worked by steam, Along the bottom of the trough will be tacked small strips to catch the gold.

Cable Address: "Connova," Vancouver.

Codes: A1, 4th Ed., A. B. C., Moreing and Neal.

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ROSSLAND, B. C.

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Hammered Steel Shoes and Dies

Warranted not to clip off or batter up.

Send for illustrated Fireulars.

A Home Production

Our display of new and worn-out Shoes and Ties, on exhibition at the Mining Fair held in this city recently (January 29 to March 5), was pronounced the best they had ever seen by scones of experienced mining men halling from various points along the Pacific coast from Alaska to Mexico, and from Australia.

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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MARSHAL & SMITH, PROPS. *



14 POUNDS!

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Our Miner's Cap, which protects the face and the neck, is almost a necessary complement of every miner's outlit. It only weighs ten ounces and is warmer than fur. The best stores in British Columbia keep them, but if your dealer does not have one and will not get you one, send us a money order for \$2.00 and we will send you one to any address in Canada, charges prepaid.

The Alaska Feather and Down Co., Limited

290 Guy Street, Montreal, Quebec

Our references: The Merchants' Bank of Hallfax or any wholesale dry goods house in Canada.

International Navigation and Trading Co, Limited

Steamers. "INTERNATIONAL" & "ALBERTA"
On the Kootenay Lake and River.

.-- TIME CARD -

In Effect 12 July, 1807. Subject to Change Without Notice.

Five Mile Point Connection with all Passenger Trains of the N. & F. S. R. R. to and from Northport, Rossland and Spokane Tickets sold and Baggage checked to all U.S. Points

Leavo Kaslo for Nelson and way points, daily except Sundays,

5:45 a. m. Arrive Northport 12:15 p.m; Rossland, 3:40 p.m; Spokane, 6 p.m, Leave Nelson for Kaslo and way points, daily except Sunday, 5:30 p.m. Scaving Spokane 8 a.m.; Rossland, 10:30 a.m.; Northport, 1:50

New Service on Kootensy Lanc.
Leave Nelson for Kaslo, etc., Tucs., Wed., Thurs., Frl.,
8:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m.

G. ALEXANDER, General Manager.

Kaslo & Slocan Railway

→- TIME CARD --

Trains Run on Pacific Standard Time.

Going west	Dally	Going east
Lv 8.00 a.m		Ar 3,50 p.m.
** 8.36 **	South Fork	" 3.15 "
** 9.36 **	Sproule's	" 2.15 "
	Whitewater	
	Bear Lake	
	McGulgan	
	lunction	
Ar 10 50 "	Sandon	Lv 1.00
	SANDON AND CODY.	
Ly 11.00 a.m	Sandon	45-41 A
Ar 11.20 "	Cody	Lv 11.25 a.m
Telegraphic Adoress.	"Bed-rock." R	. W. BRYAN.
Code, Moreing & Nea	ls	Superintendent.

COLUMBIA & WESTERN RAILWAY CO.

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

No. 2 presenger (daily except Sunday)
Leaves Rossland 3.00 p.m. Arrives at Trail 3.00 p.m.
No. 4 passenger (daily)
Leaves Rossland 11.00 a.m. Arrives at Trail 12.00 a.m.
No. 6 passenger (daily event. Sunday)
No. 6 passenger (daily except Sunday) Leaves Rossland 7.00 u.m.
Arrives at Train 7.50 a.m.
WESTBOUND.
No.3 passenger (daily except Sunday)
Leaves Trail 8.15 a.m.
Arrives in Rossland
No. I passenger (dally)
Arrives in Rossland 1.30 p.m.
NO. 5 passenger (dally except Sunday)
Leaves Trail. 5.45 p.m. Arrives in Rossland 7.00 p.m.
Connections made with all boats arriving and departing from
Trail.
GENERAL OFFICES, TRAIL, B. C. E. P. GUTELIUS, Gen. Supt

UNION STEAMSHIP CO., OF B. C., LTD.

Head Office and Wharf, Vancouver, B. C.

Morthern Settlements-SS. Comox salis from Company's Wharf every Tuesday at 9 a.m. for Bowen Island, Howe Sound, Sechelt. Jervis Inlet. Frocek Toxada Island, Howe Sound, Sechelt. Jervis Inlet. Frocek Toxada Island, Hond Bay, Phillips Arm, Frederick Arm. Thurlow Island, Loughborough Inlet, Salmon River, Port Neville, and sails every Friday at 3 p.m. for way ports and Shoal Bay, calling at Buto Inlet every six works weeks

weeks.

Eivers Inlet and Mass Eiver—SS. Coquitlam salls on 8th and 2nd of each month and will proceed to any part of the Coast should inducements offer.

Moodyville and Morth Vancouver Ferry—Leaves Moodyville: 8, 9:15, 10:45, 12, 10:00, 2, 4 and 5:45 p.m. Leaves Vancouver: 8:25, 10, 11:29, 1:15 p.m., 3:15, 5:15 and 0:2, calling at North Vancouver each way excepting the noon trip.

Freight Eteamers—SS. Capilano and S. S. Coquitlam, capacity 30 tons, D.W.

Tugs and Scown always available for towing and freighting business. Large storage accommodation on company's wharf
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Telephene 94. M. 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 I 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. Leave Victoria for New Westminster, Ladder'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—Thurday at 7 o'clock Northern Route. LADNER'S

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.

Mines and Mining Stocks

A thorough knowledge of the Mining Regions of British Columbia enables me to furnish competent and reliable information. No mines listed for sale unless endorsed by some reputable mining engineer.

Connections in principal cities of Canada, United States and Europe. Correspondence solicited. Address:

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Agents for Mining Critic.

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BAILEY BROS	
NORMAN CAPLE & CO	
HOTEL VANCOUVER NEWS:	STAND, Vancouver.