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British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

WEEKLY EDITION.

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NOTICE.

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EDITORIAL.

THE SENATE'S REASONS.

Senator Macdonald of Victoria has given the Montreal Witness the following good reasons for the Senate's action on the Yukon railway bill:

1. The access to the proposed railway is through United States waters, which renders our commerce liable at all times to the caprices of a foreign power and to vexatious restrictions.

3. The access to the proposed railway is through frozen, or rather, half frozen waters, and at the present time there are about six thousand men and thousands of tons of merchandise at the mouth of the Stikine which cannot proceed or be forwarded by steamer or sleigh.

3. The proposed railway is narrow gauge, therefore cannot make connection with a trunk line of the ordinary width.

4. The railway cannot possibly be finished before September, and if the Yukon miners depend on it for food, law and order, what are they to do from now to the end of October, which would be the earliest date at which supplies could go in by it?

5. The Stikine river will not, before the early part of May, be fit for navigable purposes.

6. The Yukon river will be open by the end of June. There are fully ten or twelve ocean steamers ready to carry supplies to its mouth, and probably there will be thirty or forty light draught steamers ready in June to carry supplies to Dawson City from the mouth of the Yukon.

7. Three months before the railway could land a pound of food at Dawson City thousands of tons will be landed there by the Yukon.

8. Every miner going in this year takes a year's supplies, consequently no danger of starvation.

9. The universal testimony is that American miners in

British territory under British laws are most law-abiding, and have the greatest respect for our laws—that has been the experience in Cariboo, Rossland and other places.

10. The idea of an attempt being made to wrest the Yukon country from Canada is an idle dream, and is used merely as a lever to exercise pressure.

11. If American miners respect British laws more than they do their own, and our country is as free to them as to British subjects, why should they revolt?

12. Canada cannot send a policeman in uniform, or a militiaman, to the Yukon by the Stikine route without the consent of the United States.

13. Added to all this the land grant is excessive.

The earlier arguments go far to show that not only is the boasted all-Canadian route of the rejected railroad disagreeably and dangerously subject to obstruction at the hands of the United States officialdom, but also inadequate to provide the access required for men and goods, save for a short period of each year. The way to remedy these things is, of course, to make a new railroad contract, extending the Stikine-Teslin railroad to a point far further south in open waters on the northern coast of our own Province. The later arguments of Senator Macdonald show that the proposed railroad could not in any case have carried in more than a meagre amount of men and goods this year, whilst the plea that its immediate construction is absolutely required by considerations of national self-preservation is also groundless. Last, and of course not least, comes another strong reason for the Senator's vote, namely, the wholly excessive value given to the favored contractors.

The points made by Senator Macdonald are well known to most British Columbians, but they may and probably will be new to British readers of the MINING CRITIC, who will learn therefrom the chief reasons for the Senate's decisive veto of the Mann-Mackenzie deal.

What is now needed is of course a new and better agreement for opening up the Stikine-Teslin route by wagon road and railroad, and connecting them directly with undoubted and unobstructed Canadian territorial waters in British Columbia. In the way of such highly advisable action the senate's vote places no obstacle, and it only remains for the Dominion government to adopt—if its members will—a statesmanlike policy which shall adequately meet a national emergency of considerable importance.

THE KETTLE RIVER RAILWAY BILL.

This bill, having run the gauntlet of fierce opposition in the house of commons, now stands for third reading, and seems certain to pass both houses and become law. If, as expected by many, this scheme of Mr. Corbin's should enable the Grand Trunk railway to enter the Boundary country and make a first entry into Pacific Canada, the passage of the bill is of very far-reaching importance indeed, and it were extreme narrowness of mind to regard the endeavor as one destined to benefit American interests at the cost of Canadian welfare. The Hon. Mr. Blair, the Dominion Minister of Railways, clearly regards the undertaking as of far wider and better scope, and he is doubtless possessed of accurate information as to the railway interests that are behind the Kettle river project.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Two well-known English Klondike companies have plenty of trouble on hand just now. The Pioneer Trading Company of Klondike, Limited, finds that several members of its exploring party won't go north, apparently counting the bodily cost too high for the reward offered. As a result there have been police proceedings in Vancouver in respect of retained outfits, and as a result of alleged breach of contract rights. Meanwhile there are clearly still more serious dissensions in the official ranks of that much-boomed organization, the Klondike Mining, Trading & Transportation Company, Limited, which recently, amongst other things, offered to take would-be Yukoners early in spring directly and comfortably to Dawson, under the distinguished guidance of a local director in the person of Ex-Governor Dewdney—all for the moderate sum of \$500 as passage money for the route between British Columbia and the Yukon town on the swamp. As all the world knows, the personally conducted tour broke down at a very early point en route, and the Hon. Mr. Dewdney was only too glad to get back again to comfortable quarters in Victoria so soon as ever he could. Then arose, as it is understood, grave dissensions, all kinds of reasons being given for the failure of an utterly premature effort to make Dawson that should have been postponed at least two mouths. And now, after big loss has doubtless been incurred, the London directors of the Klondike Mining, Trading & Transportation Company have done what they should have arranged at first—substituted for a costly and largely ornamental local board in British Columbia, one practical man as local manager, in the person of a Mr. Strickland. The company thus, it is understood, dispenses with the services of Sir Charles Tupper, who has long been far away and out of Yukon reach at Ottawa; so, too, with the

services of a friend of his, a Mr. Ashworth. The same thing happens to the Hon. Mr. Dewdney, whose efforts were so badly foiled on the Stickine; also to Messrs. Bethune and Lugrin of Victoria. By the change the London company no doubt saves the cost of a rather big salary list, and dispenses with more than one who was little more than an "ornamental" local director. It is, however, difficult to believe, as suggested by our contemporary, the Vancouver Daily Province, that the local directors and other officers now superseded were in receipt of salaries amounting to the large sum of \$66,000 a year. Less than half such a sum would have been large remuneration for all that they did or were expected to do, as men of affairs having in most cases other things to occupy, and this remuneratively, the larger part of their time and energy. However, English Klondike companies are, usually, when backed by substantial capitals, nothing if not lavish, and most of them will, ere they finish, play "ducks and drakes" with the British investors' money.

It seems probable that the difficulty of treating refractory silver-lead ores, containing much zinc, may be solved by a new process. A very strong company styled the Smelting Corporation, Limited, has at last been formed in England for this purpose, with a capital of £600,000. Its directors include the Rt. Hon. Wm. Lidderdale, Ex-Governor of the Bank of England; Henry Allhusen, M. P., a millionaire capitalist; Mr. H. De La Rue, an eminent scientist; and Mr. Wilberforce Bryant, a well-known business man, who has made a huge fortune by the manufacture of patent matches. The company has, therefore, as strong men behind it financially as any undertaking of the kind well can have. It takes over a business already established at Swansea, South Wales, by Mr. H. R. Fry and others, where refractory silver-lead ores containing zinc are stated to have been successfully treated for some time by a patent which involves the use of fluxes composed of sulphate of soda and oxide of iron. It is claimed that by this process 90 per cent. of the silver in refractory ore can be profitably recovered, 87 per cent. of the lead, and 70 per cent. of the zinc, use for a large part of which last mineral can be had in the form of oxide of zinc. The company will, in addition to its works at Swansea, build another and large smelter near Eastham, on the Manchester ship canal.

If this new process proves all that is stated, it means much for undertakings like the Galena mines, where the silver-lead ore is refractory and contains a large percentage of zinc. It may enable even the Galena mines to make a fairly respectable output and pay moderate dividends, if its inordinate amount of watered capital be, as it should, greatly

reduced. And, as there are many other instances of refractory zinc-impregnated silver-lead ores in the Province, the process of the Smelting Corporation, Limited, may have very important effects indeed, in furthering British Columbia silver mining by rendering quite profitable, ore deposits now deemed all but valueless, because hitherto found too stubbornly refractory.

Mr. J. D. Kendall's remarks, quoted in part elsewhere, justifying a valuation of the Whitewater mine at only about two years' purchase, show clearly, on expert testimony, how necessary it is for British Columbian, like South African precious-metal mining companies, not only to provide for dividend payment out of profits, but also to set aside each year a fair percentage for a sinking fund, applicable either to repayment of original capital at the end of the mine's productive term of life, or else to the purchase of other properties in substitution. The Whitewater has been producing well and profitably for about two years, and Mr. Kendall bases his valuation on a reasonable certainty of about four more years of richly productive life. Hence a leading mine valuer of British Columbia evidently, in ordinary cases of silver-lead mine purchasing, declines to reckon with anything approaching certainty on more than some six years of productive life. Mr. Kendall is, perhaps, specially conservative and cautious, but the inference is nevertheless very suggestive.

How comes it that the London Daily Mail has, so far as can be learned from a perusal of its columns, done little or nothing to aid its Yukon commissioner, Mr. J. W. Heyward, who at latest accounts lay almost hopelessly ill from frostbites and exposure in an Indian hut near Dyea. It is a question that needs answering. The great London paper's references to its correspondent's plight have been strangely cold and perfunctory. Any leading American paper would have done everything possible to succor and relieve a representative so grievously distressed, and what makes the Mail's action stranger is the fact that its chief proprietor has shown a decided penchant for discovery and relief enterprise, as witness the expedition which he equipped and sent in successful quest of Dr. Nansen.

The British Columbia Review of London, England, comments scathingly on the fact that leading English newspapers are now all too eager to advertise at high rates dubious mine and other companies, the very prospectus of which show that they are anything but bona fide ventures. These leading dailies are, moreover, as the Review adds, careful as a rule not to show up any such fake companies in their financial notes, though ready and

eager to assail minor joint stock impostures, the promoters of which happen not to be able to pay for high priced advertising. The tone of many leading British newspapers has certainly become perceptibly lower of late, as regards their relations to doubtful financial ventures.

AN AUSTRALIAN EXPERT'S OPINION.

Mr. Thomas Bateman, a mining engineer of long Australian and other experience in gold, silver, lead, copper, tin, and coal mining, speaks as follows as to Canadian, and, in particular, British Columbia mining opportunities:

"Speaking from an experience of twenty-five years in gold, silver, lead, copper, tin, and coal mining, my opinion is that Canada has a splendid future in store, greater than anyone at present can conceive. I speak especially of British Columbia and the Northwest Territory. It is difficult to realize that such a vast country in the British Empire, peopled by the English race, and possessing such a plentitude of valuable mineral wealth, should have remained so long comparatively unnoticed. You have gold, silver, lead, copper, coal, and iron, in abundance, and almost every other variety of universal ores known. But what I regard as a very favorable feature in many mining districts is, that gold, silver, copper and lead are found in combination—as associated minerals. Small yields of this class of ore pay dividends.

"Can I give any instances of low-grade ores of this kind paying dividends in Australia?"

"Quite a number: The Mount Lyell Company, Tasmania, 300,000 shares, £3 each, the directors of which have officially announced that there will be a dividend of £2 paid on its shares during 1898, from 4½ per cent. copper ore, containing small yields of gold and silver, of a total value of less than \$15 per ton; then the Barrier Silver Mines of Broken Hill, employing over 5,500 men, have raised nearly 1,000,000 tons of ore during 1897 from one line of lode. All the companies, except one, have been paying dividends during the year from low-grade ores averaging about \$8 per ton, containing silver, lead, zinc and copper. Enormous quantities of zinc blend exist in most of these mines, and especial attention was given last year to this material. In all the mines improved methods of concentration have had particular attention, with the result that immense quantities of zinc tailings are now being recovered from the dumps, this by-product being now marketable by the new method of treatment. The actual treating capacity of all the ore-dressing plants along this line of lodes is about 28,000 tons weekly. This method of treatment can be applied to the zinciferous ores of British Columbia with beneficial results.

"Have I drawn any comparison between the

mining laws and regulations of Australia and British Columbia?

"Yes. In some respects your conditions are very liberal, in others amendments are desirable. The country is being staked by men, many of whom have a very slight knowledge of minerals, often placing their discovery posts on country rock—without any intention of doing assessment work—on the off chance of selling their claims for a mere trifle. The accessible country is thus barred from the search of the genuine mineral prospector, and relocation aggravates the position. He is baffled at every turn by dummed land, claims carelessly staked, and illegible notices. If the restrictions were made more severe, the land now dummed would be open to him to prospect, and he would have a chance of locating ground upon which he would put in labor of much higher assessment value. I would encourage the genuine mining prospector in every possible way. It is his particular work. He finds his own means, or is grubstaked for a lengthy trip. If he makes a discovery of value he generally finds means of continuing his prospecting work. As a rule there are willing purchasers for promising ventures. He has a ready market for shows of value, and a chance of dealing direct with the different exploration companies, who give him a fair price, and who are opening up the country with their capital. The effect of dummying claims is putting the country back in a serious degree. If put a stop to, claims taken up would be thoroughly prospected, more discoveries would be made, more mines would be in operation, more miners employed, the country enriched thereby, and it would eliminate many of the 'wild cat' schemes it is feared may be put upon the market, with the usual result—groups of claims of no value.

"What amendments would I suggest, and how to give them practical shape?

"Well, that is rather a large order. A few will suffice for the present: The proper staking out of claims, blazed boundary lines, angle posts, L trenches showing direction of boundary lines, and legible notices on datum posts, would assist the mining prospector in his wanderings through thick forest and dense scrub. Discovery posts should be abolished: registration of claims not to be compulsory whilst being prospected continuously. On registration, compulsory surveys should be executed under government supervision at fixed rates; and charts of the different mining districts should be provided by the government, showing trails, claims taken up and surveyed, so that the mining prospector could turn his attention to vacant ground, and know where to find it without wasting time. As to the amendments required, I would suggest: First, the constitution of mining boards in every mining district; second, the election of two representatives from each district to attend a general

mining conference, to which the minister of mines and members of parliament for their districts should be invited to discuss the mining act clause by clause, suggesting additions or amendments. Out of this would grow the constitution of a council of mines, composed of the minister of mines, chairmen of the chief stock exchanges, presidents of the mine managers and the miners' associations, and other representatives of mining bodies, including secretaries of mining corporations, say not to exceed five in number. The council to have the following powers and duties, viz: Advise and report to ministers with respect to amendments and necessity of any new regulation, breaches of covenants of any mining claims, and make such propositions to the ministers as it may think advisable for the purpose of stimulating and encouraging mining throughout British Columbia, and generally advise as to any matters connected with the mining industry in British Columbia.

THE GLENORA-TESLIN TRAIL.

All sensible British Columbians should, whatever their views of our Provincial party politics, approve the immediate intention of the Provincial government to make the best possible wagon trail of the Glenora-Teslin road at the earliest moment. The Dominion government seemingly hesitates and delays action, when immediate action is demanded, and for once at least a Provincial administration leads the way in an endeavor that must conduce greatly to the benefit of the Province's Klondike trade. A good wagon trail may be made by June if the work be well planned on proper lines of subdivision of labor. Then the Glenora-Teslin route will become a favorite means of northern access at less than a twentieth of the cost of a railroad that would not in any case have been built and in running order before the close of the Klondike emigration season.

RESIGNS HIS APPOINTMENT.

Mr. D. J. Macdonald, Provincial Inspector of Mines, has resigned his government appointment and followed Mr. Carlyle's example in accepting a position at Rossland under the British America Corporation. The Corporation's policy is evidently to secure good practical aides to the Hon. Mr. Mackintosh and his director colleagues.

SCHOOL OF MINES FOR RUSSLAND.

Influential Kosslanders are supporting a local school of mines, which has just been established in their city, with Mr. H. Hastings, C. E., as the first of a body of instructors to be duly organized. The instruction given will be practical, and prove, it is thought, of great value to Kootenay prospectors.

Current Mining News.

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

THE MOLLIE HUGHES GROUP SOLD.

The Mollie Hughes group of the Slocan has been sold for \$40,000 to an English syndicate represented by Mr. R. H. H. Alexander. Ten per cent. of the cash is stated to have been paid down, and the balance is to be payable in equal instalments at six and nine months intervals.

ROSSLAND DEVELOPMENTS.

A small force of five men is now engaged in developing the Cliff Fraction. The area of the claim is twelve acres, and it will therefore be almost a quarter size mine. The Modena claim has been sold to the Edgar Gold Mining and Smelting Company, Limited, which now owns the adjoining properties of the Modena, Esmeralda, and Edgar.

PLACER GOLD AT AINSWORTH.

A body of miners on French creek have found placer gold in paying quantities. This is a novel discovery for Ainsworth, and, as a result, French creek will soon be all occupied, and its placer gold got out, so far as is possible, by the miners' ordinary methods. The first fortunate party of workers claim to have got out \$29.79 worth of coarse gold in a few buckets of gravel, the find including a \$10 nugget.

AUSTRALIANS FOR THE KLONDIKE.

The Miowera has brought over about 100 Australian emigrants to Klondike. Not a few of them are exchanging the blazing hot, waterless plains of Western Australia for the differently extreme climate of Klondike. However, most are hardy miners of experience, likely to face far better than the tenderfoot the difficulties and dangers of the far north. Quite a few of them are Irish, with all the jovial courage of their race. Their coming indicates that the Yukon gold finds have excited considerable interest in Australia, but it is also clear that there will be no very large Antipodean emigration to the gold fields of our far North in the immediate future. A total influx of between 1,000 and 2,000 will probably represent Australia's Klondike contingent of 1898, the number being certain to fall far short of first expectations. Our Australian brethren are on the whole a comfort-loving race, used to a warm climate, and wisely disinclined to take exceptionally large risks in a very frigid region.

IDA MAY.

Between 500 and 600 pounds of quartz, believed to be a fair average of about 200 feet of tunneling on the Ida May vein, have been crushed by Mr. Pellew Harvey, and the crushed ore tested by a number of assays, showing an average value of over \$90 in gold and silver to the ton. The vein has widened with depth.

The Metallurgical Works at San Francisco have treated about 500 pounds of ore believed to be a fair average of 200 feet of tunneling on the Ida May vein. The average sample of 500 pounds assayed in gold and silver \$96.49 per ton, and contained 4 per cent. of sulphurets.

Amalgamation extracted \$38.01 per ton and concentration of the tailings from the amalgamation yielded at the rate of \$48.78 per ton, making a total extraction of 84.7 per cent. of the assay.

As to the loss in the tailings Mr. Harvey says: "It would be reasonable to expect the following results in practical work:

Recovery by Amalgamation.....	31.4	per cent. of all values
Recovery by Concentration.....	45.3	" " " "
After Treatment, say 85 per cent. of the \$12.85 on basis of \$96.49.....	11.10	
	95.80	per cent.

"That is, 95.80 per cent. of the assay value can be recovered by the treatment specified by the writer, milling say \$2.40 per ton, concentrating \$0.35, cyaniding \$1.80, total milling costs \$4.55."

This would make the ore yield about \$91 per ton net, and shows the notable accuracy of Mr. Harvey's assay tests of the ore value.

LARGE EAST KOOTENAY SHIPMENTS.

This year should show a big increase of gold and silver production in East Kootenay. Wild Horse, Moyie, Paamer's bar, Tracy and Bull Run creek will all contribute substantial values of placer gold, whilst many quartz claims containing gold-bearing ore will ship a considerable aggregate tonnage. The noted St. Eugene silver-lead mine has meanwhile 15,000 tons of ore on the dump, and the North Star is able to ship from 100 to 200 tons daily. Then, too, East Kootenay should this year make a fair beginning of coal mining and coke making on an extensive scale. All which, counting in of course the general effect of railroad work and development, should mean something like a boom year for East Kootenay in general and the Fort Steele district in particular.

THE CROWS' NEST COAL MINES.

That these mines "will be heard from" this year seems certain. The developers mean business, and are showing this just now by largely increasing the number of workers at the mines.

COLUMBIA GROUP OF CINNABAR MINES.

These claims, six in number, are located on Hardy Mountain, on the north side of Kamloops Lake, and have recently been bonded by J. G. Syme on behalf of a London syndicate. On some of them extensive, though unsystematic, work has been done, the principal part of which consists of a tunnel of 120 feet and a 50-foot cross-cut on the Columbia. The Idria and Almaden are extensions to the northward. A 20-foot shaft has been sunk on the former and all the stuff from the tunnel, cross-cut and shaft is from 1 to 2½ per cent. ore, or, in other words, 20 to 50 lbs. of quicksilver to the ton. On the Almaden a trench has been dug, eight feet deep, 300 feet or more to the westward, thus making the ascertained width of the ore body 400 feet or more wide, with a length on the surface of 2,400 feet, and indications justify the assumption of the existence of a vast body of ore. The claims are peculiarly situated for economical working, there being abundance of wood and water for all practical purposes and the climate being such that there would be no hindrance to working during the most inclement seasons, and there is a wagon road to within half a mile of the property. The other claims forming the group are extensions to the north and south of those mentioned. In general appearance the country resembles to some extent the Santa Cruz range in Santa Clara County, California, in which the principal deposits of cinnabar in that state have been found. The cinnabar belt can readily be traced commencing along the lake front. These deposits are supposed to be on the main cinnabar belt of the Cascades and Sierra Nevada and Coast ranges of California. The cinnabar bearing body is porphyritic and an altered sedimentary deposit on its contact with the country rock on which it was deposited. The country rock to the east is a magnesian diorite. The general course of the plane of contact is north-north-east. The planes of fissuring are parallel to the planes of contact with frequent transverse faults and slips within the ore zone. On some of the main fissure planes the material is very silicious, but the major portion has been altered until it is now mainly a magnesian alumina silicate. It is a well-known fact that quicksilver mines are worked profitably in California where the ore does not average more than 1 per cent., notably the Great Eastern mine in Lake County, which for years yielded handsome dividends on the results of reducing ore which averaged three-quarters of 1 per cent. The quicksilver mines of California produced, during the period of 43 years extending from 1850 to 1893, 1,617,376 flasks of 76½ lbs. each, averaging in value \$49 per flask, or a total of \$79,528,500. The actual cost of producing quicksilver ranges from \$7.90 to \$18 per flask, which prices include all

costs, mining, transportation of ore, prospecting and dead work, reduction of ore and flasking, superintendence, etc.

The owners of the Columbia group have given the purchasers six months in which to prospect and thoroughly investigate the property, and accept one quarter of the purchase payment in cash and the balance of three quarters in the stock of a company formed to work the claims. Such terms appear reasonable and commend themselves to us. If claim-owners could be brought to adopt more reasonable terms and prices the introduction of necessary capital would be much easier and the consequent development not only of individual properties, but of the resources of the Province, much more rapid.

THE WHITEWATER MINE SALE.

Mr. J. D. Kendall, who valued this Slocan mine for the purchasing company, justifies his valuation of it at about two years' purchase on what seem to be very solid grounds, which he adduces to show that the sale was on such terms by no means an apparent give away suggesting doubts, but one based on sound business principles. Mr. Kendall says, having regard to the limited duration of an ordinary silver mine's life, and doubtless also considering the risks of the ore body being found at depth less than apparent from ordinary external indications: "I do not think that any engineer is justified in assuming a longer life for a like mine than such a valuation implies. For what does it mean? Simply that the mine must be worked to its assumed full capacity for four years before a purchaser has received back his capital and interest at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum. After thirty-five years' experience in mines of all kinds, and in many parts of the world, I should decline to purchase any property similar to that now being dealt with, which did not promise to yield the returns above named on the money invested."

These remarks show Mr. J. D. Kendall to be a valuer of the right type from a mine purchaser's standpoint, he being justifiably careful to make the fullest allowance for a quite possible rather short life of a very productive mine.

IMPROVEMENTS AT THE WAR EAGLE.

The War Eagle mine is, it seems, after all, to be supplied immediately with electric motor power for working and lighting the mine, this being supplied by Sir Charles Ross's big electric power supply company. Clearly the War Eagle mine is at length "renewing its youth" on the much more vigorous management policy recently inaugurated, and everybody will hope that large profit results will reward the big enterprise that is now being shown.

PEACE RIVER MINING.

The British America Gold Mining and Trading Company of Baltimore, U. S. A., has sent out from Ashcroft another party of ten men, headed by Dr. Woodley, with instructions to enter the Peace river country, where in addition to working 480 acres of placer ground on the Nation river secured by the company, they are to prospect the adjoining country systematically for gold. The party is stated to be specially competent, as it includes civil engineers, mining engineers, and mineralogists.

Two other parties of Californians are also outfitting in Ashcroft, with a view to explore the Peace river country. In all about fifty persons will almost immediately set out for that district from Ashcroft, and others will probably follow them later in the year. The parties are each prepared for a stay from two to three years in the Peace river district.

BRIDGE RIVER DISTRICT.

Development work is at once being started on the Blackbird mineral claim, Cadwallader creek. The owners intend to open up the ledges thoroughly this spring. Similar efforts will be made on the Mineral King claim, situated on the south fork of Bridge River. Meanwhile steady development work is beginning on the Forty Thieves group, and it is stated that a body of men will in about a fortnight start operations for the season on the Bend'Or group, Cadwallader creek.

LONDON LETTER.

[From our own Correspondent.]

March 18, 1898.

Very stagnant has been the British Columbia mining market since my last dispatch. Business has been almost absent, and quotations have hardly moved either in the British Columbia section itself or in the Klondike department. As you will have learned from my previous letters, both British Columbia and Klondike properties are dealt in in one market, and, indeed, although Hudson's Bays and a few other Canadian properties like Canadian Asbestos are dealt in in other markets, practically all the purely Canadian mining shares are included in what is generally described as "The B. C. Market." We are now awaiting the first news of the year from Klondike, and when that comes it is expected that the market will wake up. At present it is kept in subjection by the weakness of the mining market generally, and fluctuations, few and unimportant as they are, merely reflect the appearance of the few buyers or sellers who come into the market at rare intervals. In the first week British America Corporations have shown a drooping disposition, and, indeed, at one time could only have

been sold at a shade under par. They are a little better now, but are still dull on the rumor that the counsels of the managers are rather sharply divided upon certain points. It is certainly significant that the only apparent result of Mr. Mackintosh's visit should be a sharp although small reduction in the price of the shares. Hall Mines are a fraction lower than they were, but New Gold Fields of British Columbia (Tupper's company) are harder, and London and British Columbia Gold Fields (another strong company) have improved to $\frac{1}{8}$ premium on the satisfactory statements made at the meeting of one of their offspring, the Yukon Gold Fields, and also on the report that they have acquired another promising property. The Turner-Pooley companies are dull and dejected. British Columbia Developments remain dull, and there is practically nothing doing in the market at time of writing. Klondike companies, pure and simple, are listless, and as I have before said, there is not likely to be much life in them until it is known what the result of the first winter's work is. The Vancouver Syndicate group remains in a listless condition, the Syndicate being quoted at about $1\frac{1}{2}$ premium, and their subsidiary company, Galenas, at 3s 3d.

Plenty of new things are in the air, and I have just seen the draft prospectus of the Associated Gold Mines of B. C. This concern is to have a capital of half a million sterling in £1 shares, and it will acquire ninety-six mining claims in British Columbia, the purchase price per claim working out, I believe, at about £3,750. The board has not yet been finally fixed, but I understand it will include the Duke of Manchester and the Earl of Kintore. The point about the prospectus which appealed to me was the absence of interests in the Kootenay. So far as I can learn, the company has not got a single claim on Red Mountain.

Mr. Ogilvie has been interviewed this week by one of our prominent evening papers, and his expressions about the Klondike were moderate but decidedly encouraging. He said that he should not be surprised if the Klondike were to produce \$500,000,000 of gold, and he gave it as his opinion that there were quite \$100,000,000 in sight already. We are now waiting to hear what Mr. Mackintosh has got to say for himself. I have not at present been able to confirm the rumor that Whitaker-Wright has secured the valuable services of Mr. Ogilvie in addition to Messrs. Carlyle and Mackintosh.

Mr. Mackenzie (of Mackenzie & Mann) is expected today or tomorrow, and it is believed by well-informed people that his visit is in connection with the project which has excited so much attention in Canada. Possibly he is coming for funds to assist him in carrying out his contract.

Among the latest arrivals is Mr. Burton of Victoria, who is said to be over here with the object of

forming a small company.

Messes. Parker, Kennedy & Co., late of Ross-land, are engaged in completing arrangements for the introduction of the Ymir and B. C. Syndicate, Limited. The capital will be about \$60,000, and the company will acquire the Morning and Evening Star.

I also understand that Mr. J. W. Stevens, who has recently arrived in this country, has sold his Klondike claims. The figure mentioned is £250,000, but I believe Mr. Stevens has found it necessary to relinquish his demand that the whole of the purchase money should be paid down in cash. Of course it is obvious that under present circumstances directors of Klondike companies would incur grave risks in purchasing for cash Klondike claims without first verifying the vendor's title. This can only be done slowly, and recent experiences are against undue haste. One cannot be too careful in instituting fullest inquiries regarding these Klondike claims that are now being hawked about the city.

Mr. Morris Catton is home, and much elated at the success of his visit to British Columbia. He has several more schemes in hand, I believe. I wonder whether he has succeeded in again obtaining the use of the names of Messrs. Turner & Pooley. This was the gentleman who promoted the companies with which both the Premier and the President of the Council associated themselves. Apparently the exciting debates of Victoria have not in any way dampened his ardor.

Are we to have some Cariboo flotations? It is significant that attention is being called to the possibilities of this field for enterprise by one of our evening papers, or rather its Vancouver correspondent. One generally looks for something behind that modern stalking-horse the financial interview. Kootenay and Klondike are keeping us pretty busy, and if we get Cariboo making a bid for public support, British Columbia will indeed be able to claim that her day has at last arrived.

There was a rumor this afternoon that another Klondike company was coming out tomorrow: on inquiry, however, I found this to be incorrect. Latest results certainly do not encourage promoters, for to my own knowledge three Klondike issues did not get £20,000 between them. The De Windt scheme only obtained about £4,000—so I understand; the second one obtained £5 500; and the third, I believe, something like £9,000, which shows that the public has not yet lost its head over Klondike.

By the way our life offices are showing a disposition to fight shy of Klondike risks, and as the easiest way of doing this, even those who are disposed to entertain applications are making their rates and conditions onerous in the extreme. One office—there are only about three do this class of

business—asks £5.5s per capita. Another charges an extra £1 per capita upon ordinary rates, but stipulates that it should be five years before the policy can become a full claim. If the assurer dies within the year the beneficiaries under his will, his heirs, or the holder of the policy only obtain 50 per cent. of its face value. The offices even then insist upon the applicant proving in every possible way that he has taken every possible precaution, that he is healthy, and hardy, and honest.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADIAN MINING LIST.
March 18, 1898

Nominal Capital & Shares	Companies Registered in England. All with Ltd. Lty.	Am't Pald.	Closing Price 4 p.m.
£ 160,000	Alaska Goldfields.....	fy. pd.	1 1/2-1 3/4
1,500,000	British American Corporation..	"	20s 6d-21s
30,000	B.C. Development.....	"	2s-1
20,000	B.C. Development Association..	"	1 1/2-1 1/2
245,000	B.C. Financial Trust Ordinary..	10s	3-16-1-16 ds
5,000	" " Founder..	fy. pd.	3 1/2-4 1/2
500,000	B.C. & New Find Goldfields Cor.	15s	11-16-13-16
500,000	Canadian Pacific Exploration..	15s	1 1/4-1 1/2 pm
600,000	Dawson City Dom. Trading Co....	fy. pd.	1-1 1/2
100,000	Fairview Gold Mining Co.....	"	1 7-16-1 9-16
550,000	Galum Mines.....	"	3s-3s 6d
300,000	Hull Mines (div. for 1897 20 p.c.)	"	1 1/2-1 3/4
95,000	Klon. & Columbia Goldfields.	"	15-16-1 1-16
5,000	do (last div. 10 p.c.)	"	5-7
150,000	Klondike Bonanza.....	10s	3-16-5-16 pm.
279,000	Klon. Mining, Tr. Ling & Trans	fy. pd.	1-1 1/2
60,000	Klondike & N-W Ter. (10s shs)	"	15s-16s
6,000	Klondike-Yukon and Stewart	"	12s-2 1/4
20,000	Pioneer (Pioneers shares)..	"	par-1 1/2 prem
300,000	Kootenay Goldfields Syndicate	12s	
	Lilooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Goldfields	fy. pd.	7-16-9-16
197,500	London and B.C. Goldfields....	10s	1-16-3-16 pm.
2,500	do (Deferred).....	fy. pd.	11-13
253,000	New Goldfields of B.C.....	17s 6d	11-16-13-16 pm
90,000	New Golden Telus.....	fy. pd.	7-1
70,000	Ontario Govt. Gold Concessions	"	1 1/2-1 1/2
100,000	Ontario Limited 5s shares.....	4s 6d	1s 9d-2s 3d
200,000	Recordia Exploration Co. (1st issue, 68,000 shares).....	15s	1-16 ds-1-16 pm.
25,000	Vancouver & B.C. Gen. Explor.	10s	1 1/4-1 1/2 pm.
21,132	Waverley.....	12s 6d	1 1/2-1 1/2 pm.
55,000	"	fy. pd.	1 1/2-1 1/2
125,000	Whitewater Mines.....	10s	par-1 1/2 pm.
Companies Domiciled in America or Canada			
Shares fully pd. non-ass. Serip Certs.			
\$1,000,000 in \$1 shrs	Alt Gold Mining Company (Multiples of 50 shares).....		2s 7 1/2 d-2s 10 d
\$1,000,000 in \$1 shrs	Dundee Gold Mining Company (Multiples of 500 shares).....		1s 6d-2s
\$1,500,000 in \$1 shrs	Gold and Silver Mines Developing Co. (Multiples of 500 shares).....		6d-1s
2,000,000 in \$1 shrs	War Eagle Con. M Co (Divs. paid to date \$187,000) Multiples of 100 shares.....		4s-5s

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All communications considered confidential.

J. C. Fergusson,

The Lefevre Block,

Vancouver, B. C.

Or P. O. Box 423

Mining Stock Quotations

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

COMPANY	NO OF SHARES	PAR VALUE	PRICE
TRAIL CREEK			
Butte	1,000,000	\$ 1.00	\$ 01 1/2
Caledonia Con	1,000,000	1.00	05 1/2
Colonia	1,000,000	1.00	20
Commander	500,000	1.00	11
Deer Park	1,000,000	1.00	14
Enterprise	1,000,000	1.00	18
Eureka Consolidated	500,000	1.00	06
Evening Star	1,000,000	1.00	06
Georgia	1,000,000	1.00	09
Gertrude	500,000	1.00	09
Good Hope	500,000	1.00	03 1/2
Grand Prize	1,000,000	1.00	01
Great Western	1,000,000	1.00	02 1/2
Hattle Brown	1,000,000	1.00	03
High Ore	500,000	1.00	05
Iron Mask	500,000	1.00	42
Iron Coll.	1,000,000	1.00	11
Josie	500,000	1.00	27 1/2
Josie Mae	500,000	1.00	—
Jumbo	500,000	1.00	60
La Roi	500,000	5.00	7.50
Lily Day	2,000,000	1.00	19 1/2
Maynwer	1,000,000	1.00	08
Monita	750,000	1.00	18
Monte Cristo	1,000,000	1.00	20
Mugwump	1,000,000	1.00	05
Novelty	1,000,000	1.00	08
Phoenix	500,000	1.00	08
Poorman	1,000,000	1.00	11 1/2
Red Mountain View	1,000,000	1.00	03 1/2
Rosland Homestake	1,000,000	1.00	05
Rosland, Red M'n	1,000,000	1.00	21
Silverline	500,000	1.00	05
Silver Bell	1,000,000	1.00	02 3/4
St. Elmo	1,000,000	1.00	05 1/2
Virginia	500,000	1.00	21
War Eagle Con	2,000,000	1.00	1.37
West Le Roi Josie	500,000	1.00	27
White Bear	500,000	1.00	08
AINSWORTH, NELSON & SLOCAN			
American Boy	1,000,000	1.00	14
Athabasca	1,000,000	1.00	27
Arlington Con	1,000,000	1.00	10
Dundee	1,000,000	1.00	50
Dardanelles	1,000,000	1.00	10
Dellie	750,000	1.00	12
Elise	1,000,000	1.25	—
Gibson	650,000	1.50	17
Hall Mines	300,000	2.1	—
Idler	1,000,000	1.00	11
London Hill	600,000	.25	25
Kaslo Montezuma	1,250,000	1.00	17
Noble Eye Con	1,200,000	1.00	19
Picatrix Consolidated	750,000	1.00	05
Rambler Con	1,000,000	1.00	30
Reco	1,000,000	1.00	1.50
Slocan Star	500,000	.50	2.00
St. Keverne	1,000,000	1.00	03
Two Friends	240,000	.30	16
Wonderful	1,000,000	1.00	04 1/2
Washington	1,000,000	1.00	15
Columbia-Cariboo	1,000,000	1.00	15
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alpha Bell	500,000	1.00	43
Cariboo (Camp McK.)	800,000	1.00	65
Cariboo Hydraulic Con	5,000,000	5.10	82
Channe	250,000	.25	00
Fern G. M. Co.	300,000	.25	74
Golden Cache	500,000	1.00	55
Occidental M. & M. Co.	600,000	1.00	01 1/4
Old Ironsides	1,000,000	1.00	18
Smuggler	1,000,000	1.00	19
Tin Horn	200,000	.25	25
Van Anda	5,000,000	1.00	03 1/2
Winches'er	250,000	.25	22
Fire Mountain	1,000,000	1.00	40
B. C. Mining Prospectors' Ex. Ltd.	250,000	.25	25

DIVIDENDS.

Dividends paid to date are as follows: Le Roi, \$725,000; War Eagle (Old Company), \$217,500; Rambler-Cariboo, \$40,000; Reco, \$250,000; Slocan Star, \$350,000; Cariboo, \$189,000; Dominion Developing, \$158,158. The Hall Mines, Limited, has also paid dividends on preferred and ordinary stock.

ESTIMATED PROFITS.

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

Payno	\$400,000	Goodenough	35,000
Idaho	240,000	Noble Eye	50,000
Poorman	50,000	Northern Belle	20,000
Ruth	210,000	Antoine	10,000
Whitewater (old entry)	104,000	Surprise	20,000
Washington	20,000	Monitor	15,000
Slocan Bay	25,000	Last Chance	50,000
		Fern	10,000

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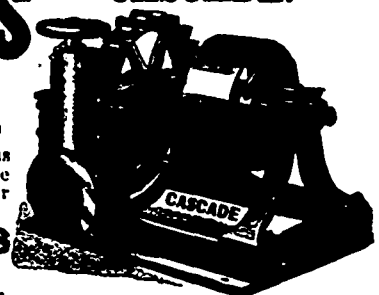
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Leave Kaslo for Nelson and way points, daily except Sundays, 5:45 a.m.
Arrive Northport 12:15 p.m., Rossland, 3:10 p.m.; Spokane, 6 p.m.
Leave Nelson for Kaslo and way points, daily except Sunday, 5:30 p.m.
Leaving Spokane 8 a.m.; Rossland, 10:30 a.m.;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

New Service on Kootenay Lake.

Leave Nelson for Kaslo, etc., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. 8:30 a.m.
Arrive Kaslo 12:30 p.m.
Leave Kaslo for Nelson, etc., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 4:00 p.m.
Arrive Nelson 8:00 p.m.

G. ALEXANDER, General Manager.

Kaslo & Slecan Railway

— TIME CARD —

Trains Run on Pacific Standard Time.

Going west	Daily	Going east
Lv 8:00 a.m.	Kaslo	Ar 3:50 p.m.
" 8:36 "	South Fork	" 3:1 "
" 9:36 "	Sproule's	" 2:15 "
" 9:51 "	Whitewater	" 2:0 "
" 10:03 "	Bear Lake	" 1:45 "
" 10:15 "	McGulgan	" 1:3 "
" 10:38 "	Junction	" 1:12 "
Ar 10:50 "	Sandon	Lv 1:00 "

SANDON AND CODY.

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

Telegraphic Address, "Bed-rock." R. W. BRYAN, Superintendent.
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COLUMBIA & WESTERN RAILWAY CO.

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

EASTBOUND.

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

WESTBOUND.

No. 3 passenger (daily except Sunday)
Leaves Trail 8:15 a.m.
Arrives in Rossland 9:40 a.m.
No. 1 passenger (daily)
Leaves Trail 12:30 p.m.
Arrives in Rossland 1:30 p.m.
No. 5 passenger (daily except Sunday)
Leaves Trail 5:45 p.m.
Arrives in Rossland 7:00 p.m.

Connections made with all boats arriving and departing from Trail.

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

Moodyville and North Vancouver Ferry—Leaves Moodyville, 8:15, 10:45, 12 noon, 2, 4 and 5:45 p. m. Leaves Vancouver: 8:35, 10, 11:30, 1:15 p.m., 3:15, 5:15 and 6:2 calling at North Vancouver each way excepting the noon trip.

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TIME TABLE NO. 32

Takes effect January 4th, 1898.

VANCOUVER ROUTE.

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

VANCOUVER TO VICTORIA—Daily (except Monday), at 13:15 o'clock, or on arrival of C. P. R. No. 1 train.

NEW WESTMINSTER ROUTE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTHERN ROUTE.

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

BARCLAY SOUND ROUTE.

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

KLONDIKE ROUTE.

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

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

JOHN IRVING, Manager.

G. A. CARLETON, General Agent, Victoria.

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.

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