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British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

WEEKLY EDITION.

Vol. I, No. 44.

VANCOUVER, B.C., SATURDAY, FEB. 26, 1898

PRICE 5 CENTS.

NOTICES.

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.

THAT CONTRACT.

The badness of the Mann-Mackenzie bargain is practically admitted by the Hon. Mr. Sifton and his colleagues, since they make their defense of it, on the ground of dire necessity based on the urgent need of speedily conveying food supplies to miners in the Yukon, who would otherwise run great risk of starvation. The argument is, however, unconvincing, for tenders could more generally have been called at short notice and by free competition, it being exceedingly likely that amongst some thirty applicants for Yukon railroad charters, a better offer might have been secured. Messrs. Mann & Mackenzie would, moreover, in such case, have in all probability lessened the amount of their demand and been content to take a far less extensive land grant, yet one that might easily recoup them several times their expenditure. There is, indeed, no reason why the Stickine railroad should not be built by the State, unless there be accepted as true the humiliating implied admission that every Dominion public work on a large scale must—whatever government be in office—involve mismanagement, extravagance and boodling. If this be so, then certes Canada has little whereof to boast in respect of efficiency of government, being in this respect far behind the Australian colonies, which both build and work to great public advantage their

own railroads. In fact, say what one may to the contrary, governmental administration is throughout the Dominion far less progressive than that of several of the Antipodean colonies, though it compares favorably with public rule in the States. Meanwhile we sincerely hope that as a result of both external and internal pressure, the Stickine railroad may be extended further south, a condition of the extension arrangement being a very large modification, pro bono publico of the terms of a too hastily concluded and utterly one-sided bargain. United States obstruction may thus prove Canada's opportunity. Meanwhile it is satisfactory to learn that under a prior Dominion charter a second railroad to the Yukon is likely to be built, via the White pass. There aint even Mr. Sifton and his colleagues should rejoice—though seemingly they don't—assuming the validity of their plea for the Stickine railroad agreement. For certes, if there be, as certainly there will be, need in the early future of many and speedy food shipments to the Yukon, two competing railroads will better secure this than one.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The local managers of the snow and ice locomotive transport company, which General Alger, the United States secretary of war, incautiously endorsed, are in trouble at Seattle, charged with fraud on numerous would-be passengers who have paid heavy fares. It is claimed that the concern is not bona fide, though the directors deny the allegation, and are defending themselves in court. In any case it is practically certain that the project will prove an utter failure. The snow and ice engines are used in winter in Michigan lumber camps, but only on logging roads of easy grade and in a far milder climate than the Yukon. Meanwhile the Post Intelligencer laments the fact that many fake transport companies and Klondike bunco steerers are now homed in Seattle. All that the P. I. can say is that Seattle is in this respect no worse than San Francisco or New Orleans, our contemporary being practically obliged to admit that the Sound city is at present choke full of rascals of many kinds, ready to prey on the "young men

from the country" now making in thousands for the Yukon. British travelers to Klondike will, if they have a grain of common sense, avoid Seattle as a city abounding in traps for the unwary, and full of unfair dealers. They will do well also to remember that thence have sailed and will sail north many rotten coffin ships, passed by lax or corrupt inspecting government officials. Already five, more or less rotten hulks steaming Yukonwards from the Sound, have been wrecked, nearly a hundred lives having thus been lost. Meanwhile not a single British ship has foundered on the Alaskan route. Let Britons and Canadians who would get safely and cheaply to Klondike, avoid Seattle as they would the plague.

The Klondike craze continues and increases its ill effects upon the sturdy mine workers of the Slocan. Hundreds more are now preparing to leave for the far north, whither more than a hundred men from the Slocan are already en route. As a result it is said that mine workers' wages in the Slocan will probably next season be increased by about a dollar a day on the average. On the other hand, the inrush of the Jap coolies to the Klondike country will assuredly there reduce workers' wages by 50 per cent. at least, and bring the labor remuneration of that hard and costly country to a relatively much lower level than that of the Slocan. No doubt a few Slocan men will in the Yukon "strike it rich," but most will bitterly regret their migration, physically well fitted though they are, and better able to cope with the rigors of the Klondike than nine of every ten of the miscellaneous mass of migrants to that region. There is, meanwhile, a natural feeling of temporary depression in the Slocan, resulting from the departure of so many good men. The rumor is, however, groundless that another outcome of the temporary exodus is the loss by Editor Lowery, of the New Denver Ledge, of all his wonted power of humor. The latest issue of the Ledge to hand sufficiently refutes this, though it is evident that he jokes with rather less ease than usual, and goes for the doubtful Mann-Macdenzie deal with more than wonted fierceness.

The people of Revelstoke are anxiously awaiting several things necessary to the continued progress of their growing town. The first, the protection of a large part of the townsite from destruction by the wash of the rapid Columbia river, is seemingly in *course of consummation*, the Provincial government having energetically taken the matter in hand, though for the time being the Dominion government declines the aid which it should give in the case. A second requirement, incorporation as a city municipality, seems also well on the way. Revelstoke, however, also needs greatly river navigation improvement and further road and trail construction in order to give access to and make the town the

distributing center of the Big Bend gold country, which though temporarily discredited by the Orphan Boy fiasco and other retarding influences, is nevertheless believed to be a district rich in the yellow metal.

The British Columbia Review, of London, Eng., states that the latest would-be promoter of a Klondike company in London is one Sheridan. This worthy has in his time promoted a lot of bubble companies, and is now in the bankruptcy court, likewise in goal, whither he is consigned for a blackmailing effort, which a stern English judge rightly considered in the nature of a criminal libel. Even a term in gaol seems, however, inadequate to restrain the swindling maneuvers of a certain unsavory class of British company promoters. Two other London promoters of fake Klondike companies are also in trouble. One is on trial for swindling, the other somewhere on the European continent, whither he has fled in possession of the money subscribed by confiding stockholders—several thousand pounds in all.

It is satisfactory to learn that the Klondike Bonanza flotation, made in London through a returned Yukon boomer, bearing the strange name of Ironmonger solo, has not proved altogether successful for its bonus-hunting chief promoters, though they went, it seems, to an allotment of stock. The prospectus of the concern had about it the characteristic signs of an undertaking to be studiously avoided by the careful investor. Shares in sufficient numbers seem, however, to have been taken to make it worth the promoters' while to go to allotment. The MINING CRITIC will note with interest, unleavened however by hope, the progress of the venture, which is based on the ownership of certain Bonanza creek claims, which are, according to men of Yukon experience, certain to become exhausted very speedily.

It is understood that the Chamber of Mines has already secured a membership of nearly fifty representative men. Other applications continue to be received by the acting-secretary, Mr. Taggart, especially for associate membership. He is also in receipt of many communications which heartily endorse the objects of the institution. The Chamber is, therefore, making steady and satisfactory progress, and it is expected that its board will soon get well to work. A statutory charter of incorporation will, it is expected, be obtained even this session, though to secure this, a waiver of the standing orders of the Provincial legislature will be necessitated.

Attorney-General Eberts' declaration that the Provincial government will, if and when necessary, protect by law precious metal miners' rights within the railway belt on Vancouver island, should, if

duly fulfilled, prove satisfactory to prospectors in that district. A recent decision of the highest court of the Empire, as will be remembered, declared clearly that the Esquimaux and Nanaimo railway's grant of Provincial lands and mineral rights did not include the precious metals.

The London (Eng.) Mining Journal continues to do good work by repeating emphatic warnings against the migration to the Klondike of British tenderfeet, and against the wiles of Klondike promoters. It also warns investing readers to be wary of certain dubious British Columbia promotions now projected in England, instancing in particular the case of the Bondholder.

STRANGELY UNINFORMED.

The ignorance of the assistant editor of the London (Eng.) Standard, who supervises trans-Atlantic cable matter, is seemingly phenomenal. Thus that leading English daily paper recently published, and, no doubt, paid well for a lot of senseless twaddle cabled by a boomster correspondent in New York to the effect that the Chilkoot Pass aerial tramway has reduced the journey from ocean to the Yukon from one month to a single day. This nonsense duly appeared without a single warning comment, and has probably caused not a few persons to set out for the Yukon country, under the impression that it can be reached in the course of a single day's easy journeying from the ocean limits of Alaska. It will be remembered that it was the Standard which lately published deceptive nonsense about Yukon quartz running \$300,000 to the ton, a story which suggests a well-known Yankee comment on a like assay of a small sample taken from a good pocket. The showing per ton was all right, he said, but the thought that troubled his mind was, "Where in hades am I to find the ton?" The Standard's telegraph editor clearly needs a lot more "horse sense" than he at present possesses. There will then be fewer fool-traps in the columns under his supervision.

BIG NAMES AND BIG MONEY.

There are big names standing for big money behind the Rothschilds' syndicate's endeavor to secure a Yukon railroad charter, via the Dalton trail. The proposed incorporators are Lord Farquhar, the well-known London banker, Lionel Phillips, the South African millionaire, and Messrs. Hamilton Smith, Rosenthal, Lakash, Gibbs, and Rider, all well-known London financial men. It is, however, very doubtful if the effort will succeed, the Mann-Mackenzie group having clearly got a "big pull" at Ottawa, and expecting thus to secure the projected monopoly with profits behind it certainly representing several millions of dollars.

AGAINST A SUGGESTED CHANGE.

Mr. W. A. Carlyle, Provincial Mineralogist, recently suggested certain changes in the mining laws, including the adoption of a provision that a locator must perform his assessment work within ninety days instead of one year, as at present. While Mr. Carlyle did not think his changes would yet be made, he said he would like them to be discussed. The people of Kaslo have accordingly done this in public meeting, and have passed the following condemnatory resolution: "Resolved, that it is the sense of this meeting that the proposed amendment of Provincial Mineralogist Carlyle, discriminating against the prospector, be not indorsed, and that a petition in remonstrance be circulated and forwarded to the legislature and Provincial government, notifying them to that effect."

Evidently the men of Kaslo think the Provincial Mineralogist's suggestion, while well intended, somewhat too drastic. Whilst one year is probably an excessive time allowance for assessment work, ninety days may on the other hand be found too short. A six months period might perhaps prove an acceptable compromise.

AT AND EN ROUTE TO KLONDIKE.

The Dawson hospitals are full of fever and scurvy stricken patients, and there is great local scarcity of food, though no actual starvation. Meanwhile, as a result of the finding of a nugget worth about \$450, a great rush of tenderfeet is proceeding to a new locality known as Skookum gulch. On Big Salmon and other streams further gold finds are reported, but there is nothing to evidence anything phenomenal.

Meanwhile, at Wrangel the C. P. R. has purchased wharfage accommodations, which will at once be largely extended. The town is growing rapidly, and some sort of a trail has already been made to Teslin lake, toward which hundreds of men are now making on foot, accompanied by dog teams. Meanwhile Messrs. Mann & Mackenzie are pushing forward supplies, in order to begin without delay the work of constructing the Stickine River railroad.

THE CRITIC'S VIEW CONFIRMED.

The Toronto Globe already exults over the probability that the Dominion will receive a big profit revenue, as a result of the numerous exactions in duties, excise and license fees on Yukon settlers. The Globe reckons at a low estimate on a profit of \$1,500,000. The Dominion government organ thus fully confirms the long since expressed opinion of the MINING CRITIC, which still holds that many of the exactions—the 10 per cent. royalty being a special instance in point—are far too heavy.

RATES OF DUTY ON FOREIGN GOODS.

The rate of duty on miners' outfits is from 30 to 35 per cent., which will amount to, on an average outfit, \$150 to \$175. It is important to remember that all supplies are dutiable if they are purchased outside of Canada. If outfits are purchased in a United States city duty must be paid to the Canadian customs. If purchased in Vancouver, where supplies can be procured as cheap as in any city on the continent, no duty is collected.

RATES OF DUTY CHARGED ON GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.	
Fruits, dried or evaporated.....	25 per cent. ad val.
Fruit, raisins, prunes, currants, dried.....	1 cent per lb
Bacon, hams and lard.....	2 cents per lb.
Beans.....	15 cents per bushel
Baking powder and yeast cakes.....	6 cents per lb.
Canned meats.....	25 per cent. ad val.
Butter.....	4 cents per lb.
Corn meal.....	25 cents per bbl.
Flour.....	60 cents per bbl.
Candles.....	20 per cent. ad val.
Tea, coffee (green).....	10 per cent. ad val.
Coffee, roasted.....	2 cents per lb and 10 per cent.
Spices, ground.....	25 per cent. ad val.
Vegetables, dried or evaporated.....	25 per cent. ad val.
Milk, condensed, including weight of tin.....	3¼ cents per lb.
Peas.....	10 cents per bushel
Rolled oats and oatmeal.....	20 per cent. ad val.
Rice.....	1¼ cents per lb.
Sugar.....	1 cent per lb.
Biscuits, unsweetened.....	25 per cent. ad val.
Biscuits, sweetened.....	27½ per cent. ad val.
Soap, common.....	1 cent. per lb.
Syrups and molasses.....	¼ cent per lb.
Tobacco, cut.....	55 cents per lb.
Tobacco, plug.....	50 cents per lb.
Cigars and cigarettes.....	\$3 per lb. and 25 per cent.

HARDWARE.

Axes.....	25 per cent. ad val.
Tools of trade.....	30 per cent. ad val.
Nails, cut.....	½ cent per lb.
Nails, wire.....	3-5 cent per lb.
Stoves.....	25 per cent. ad val.
Cutlery.....	30 per cent. ad val.
Cooking utensils, hollow ware.....	30 per cent. ad val.

MEDICINES.

Drugs, of one substance.....	20 per cent. ad val.
Drugs, compounded of more than one substance.....	25 per cent. ad val.
Medicines containing alcohol.....	50 per cent. ad val.

FIREARMS.

Guns, rifles, revolvers, cartridges, etc.....	30 per cent. ad val.
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CLOTHING.

Hats and caps.....	30 per cent. ad val.
Woolen, cotton and silk clothing.....	35 per cent. ad val.
Blankets, etc.....	35 per cent. ad val.
Rubber clothing of all kinds.....	25 per cent. ad val.
Boots and shoes.....	25 per cent. ad val.

A BANK FOR DAWSON.

The Bank of Commerce is, it seems, to be the pioneer bank to be established in the Yukon. It will, amongst other business, act as the Dominion government's bankers in the Yukon country. The Bank of Montreal will also enter the field without delay.

THE YUKON GOLD OUTPUT.

Dr. Dawson, chief of the geological survey, in an estimate of the amount of gold obtained from the Yukon district of Canada, laid before the House of Commons, places the total at \$4,100,500. Of this total \$2,500,000 were mined in 1897, \$300,000 in 1896, \$250,000 in 1895, \$125,000 in 1894, \$176,000 in 1893, \$87,000 in 1892, \$40,000 in 1891, \$175,000 in 1889, and various small sums prior to that time. Dr. Dawson says that there has up to the present time been no recognized method of obtaining statistics in the district or of ascertaining in regard to gold exported by the river how much was derived from Canadian and how much from Alaskan placers. The main point that is, however, suggested by the figures, is the smallness of the Yukon gold yield as compared with the enormousness of the Klondike rush. Mr. Livernash, of Dawson City, who has been sent to Ottawa as a Yukon delegate, to protest against the excessive royalty dues and other Dominion levies, fully confirms Dr. Dawson's moderation as regards the estimate of Yukon gold yield. Mr. Livernash, who certainly should know that whereof he speaks, says that if the simple truth were brought home to many a poor fellow now preparing for a trip to the Yukon, much suffering would be spared, the output and probable wealth of the Yukon being vastly exaggerated. Up to last summer the country had not yielded more than \$2,500,000. Last year's gold output was well within \$1,500,000. Work for the present winter will not bring more than \$6,000,000. Indeed, the largest estimate offered by any responsible party is \$10,000,000, made up as follows: Bonanza creek, \$4,000,000; El Dorado creek, \$4,000,000; Hunker creek, \$400,000; Bear, Dominion, Sulphur, and other creeks, \$1,000,000, and small creeks and side-hill claims another \$5,000,000. Mr. Livernash asserts that every dollar thus far extracted from the Klondike has cost one dollar, and more than one-half of the men who went to Klondike last year must be written down failures. They are poorer than when they entered the country.

YUKON WHISKY PERMITS.

A Dominion order in council raises the price of Yukon whisky permits from 25 cents to \$2 a gallon. The order is no doubt mainly inspired by the wonted Ottawa desire to get in a huge revenue whilst the Klondike boom lasts, but it will also have good social effects, in lessening considerably what promised to become a dangerously excessive import trade in spirits. If it reduces, as probably it will, this import by 50 per cent., the increased duty will far more than compensate the Dominion as regards revenue production.

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.

ORE SHIPMENTS VIA NELSON.

The ore shipments of 1898 via the port of Nelson up to the 18th instant, come to 15,507 tons of ore, valued at \$1,845,225, figures which indicate a large advance, ere 1898 closes, over the aggregate shipments of 1897, certified at and through Nelson, which were valued at \$7,613,324. At the present rate of progress the returns of 1898 should exceed \$11,000,000 in aggregate value.

BIG RECEIPTS.

The enormous return which the Dominion is making by one item alone of the many which make up the Yukon revenue is well illustrated by the fact that on one day recently at Victoria nearly 1,000 miners' licenses, at \$10 each, were issued. Most of the buyers were goldseekers from the States. Meanwhile, at Vancouver the like receipts—mostly from Canadian and British goldseekers outfitting in the city—often exceed \$1,000 a day.

ORE CRUSHING IN THE CITY.

Mr. W. Pellew Harvey has now found it necessary to install, at his assay offices on Pender street, a complete plant for crushing, by electric power, parcels of ore varying in weight from one pound to ten tons. The whole will be pulverized when required, and a mechanical sampler introduced so as to procure an exact sample of any parcel submitted for sampling and assaying purposes.

Mr. Harvey reports a constantly increasing volume of assay and ore sampling business.

HARD AT WORK.

Mr. D. J. Macdonald, the Provincial Inspector of Metalliferous Mines, has this to say of the work that he is now doing, being evidently a busy man: "I have recently spent eighteen days in examining the leading mines of the Rossland camp. Among the mines that I inspected were the Le Roi, War Eagle, Center Star, Iron Mask, Jumbo, Sunset, Deer Park, and Crown Point. The only mine near Nelson that I inspected was the Fern. Snowslides prevented my getting to the Hall mines, and I shall return there later. I have everywhere been well received by mine owners. I am not permitted to make public the results of any of my inspections, those reports being made exclusively to the minister of mines."

CARIBOO CREEK.

Below will be found what a well-written new weekly, the Mineral City News, has to say of the prospects of Cariboo creek, and there is no doubt that in the main the remarks of our contemporary represent with sufficient accuracy the generally good prospects of a coming mine district:

"When there is borne in mind the contiguity of the famous Slocan lodes which again crop up in the Cariboo valley, their value enhanced by a greater percentage of gold, little surprise should be felt at the numbers of the army of prospectors waiting for the breath of spring to fully explore a district which at present is not known thoroughly in one quarter of its extent. A well-founded rumor as to the discovery of a phenomenally rich ledge late last year on the divide between Cariboo creek and the Slocan lake country has set the people of Cariboo district seething with excitement. Indications of graphite have been observed which will doubtless result in the location of the lode in the coming season. The placer mining will be resumed with increased capital in a few weeks, and either by means of hydraulicing or by the centrifugal method adopted in Southern California the earth will be made to give up its riches. Besides the nobler metals, lead is to be found in abundance, though not in such prominence as our usually well-informed contemporary, the Nelson Tribune, states. Add to this copper. With gold, silver, tellurium, graphite, lead and copper present in the great lodes of the Cariboo, it may well be styled the El Dorado of the Kootenays.

THE ARLINGTON.

Excellent reports come from this Slocan mine, which, it is thought, may become the principal mine in the Slocan City division. The New Denver Ledge states that, "in the lower workings the foot-wall has been followed for 250 feet and a crosscut is there being made of the main lead. The lead is shown to be over thirty feet wide, containing very high-grade ore. In the upper workings, seventy-five feet above the lower, clean ore is being taken out from a paystreak more than twenty inches in width.

THE SLOCAN STAR.

Mr. Byron N. White, the chief owner of this famous and productive Slocan mine, declares that the property is not on bond to the British America Corporation. He hints, however, that the associated owners are ready enough to sell to a purchaser for "big money." But big money will be needed for a mine of the Slocan Star's productiveness. Mr. White's words, nevertheless, suggest, and, indeed, almost invite a good offer from likely purchasers of large capital resources.

ABOUT ROSSLAND.

The Rossland Miner states that the British American Corporation has bought the Black Eagle claim from Messrs. Hector McRae and J. McAtee for the sum of \$10,000. The property adjoins the Copper Jack of the Columbia and Kootenay group. Although not a full claim, it contains forty-six acres. It has the same ledge as the El Dorado, and is considered to be a promising property. The intention of the purchasers is said to be to develop it in connection with the Columbia and Kootenay group.

The Red Point Gold Mining Company is about to resume operations on its property, the Red Point, on Lookout mountain. A contract has been let for the extension of the tunnel a distance of 100 feet. The tunnel is now in a distance of 418 feet, and it is expected that by the time the tunnel will have been driven 100 feet further the ledge will have been reached. The vein will be tapped at a depth of 450 feet from the surface, which will give ample ground for stopping. The cropping is thirty-five feet wide on the surface, and assays as high as \$74. The ore is iron, carrying gold. Up to the present the sum of \$15,000 has been expended on the property.

The White Fox group of six claims, on the east slope of Sophie mountain, near Little Sheep creek, has been sold to Messrs. J. H. Murphy and T. Prest. The group includes the White Fox, the Minnie Palmer the Hope, the Volma and the Blanche Fox.

THE VAN ANDA.

The experimental shipment to Vivian & Sons, of Swansea, of thirty tons of copper-gold ore from the Van Anda mine has resulted satisfactorily, realizing rather over £241, or about \$40 a ton, with a copper yield of 17½ per cent. The working shaft is now being sunk 200 feet, and as the employment of Chinese underground at this mine has now been restrained by the imposition of a fine under the preventing Act, operations should progress more satisfactorily in all respects, white labor being substituted for Chinese.

BUGABOO CREEK SALES.

It is stated that on easy terms as to time, and subject to a small cash deposit, Dr. Langis, the owner, has bonded three claims on Bugaboo creek, in the Golden district, to an English syndicate, for a sum of \$63,000. Some little shafting and tunneling has been done on the claims, but they are yet in quite an inchoate stage of development. The bonders will doubtless fully test their value this summer by very considerable further development work.

CARIBOO HYDRAULICING.

The Ashcroft Mining Journal states that Mr Wm. Thompson, a former Australian mining man, has, in association with a group of English capitalists, acquired a large area of gold gravel ground in and about Slough creek and Willow creek. The syndicate proposes to begin extensive work on its property in the course of a few weeks. Senator Campbell will also be in Ashcroft at the end of next month, and then, after making Cariboo, begin work on the Horsefly, the Miocene Company's ground, with new and powerful machinery, and, with a party of expert California miners and experts, bottom the old channel, in which he has implicit faith, and believes there is a heavy deposit of gold. If the senator is successful in his undertaking it will result in opening up a vast mining property in the Horsefly section.

THE NANAIMO COAL TRADE.

The Nanaimo colliery owners expect a largely increased California demand for their coal in the early future. This they are awaiting with eager expectancy, the output of the district having very considerably diminished during the last two years. In anticipation of the change for the better, the New Vancouver Coal Company has purchased a third steam collier of large dimensions. This is the Norwegian steamship Titania, which can carry 4,500 tons of coal on a cargo. The new collier will begin work in connection with the mines and the San Francisco market early next month. The Protection Island mine will again also be worked shortly, so, too, it is expected, will be the Northfield. Better times are, therefore, apparently at hand for the Island coal districts.

SNOWSLIDES ABOUT SANDON.

Snowslides are again this winter causing trouble in the Sandon district of the Slocan. One slide has caused damage to the Noble Five Tramway to an amount of several thousand dollars, and at Carpenter creek a miner has lost his life. Liability to snowslides causes each winter under present conditions a temporary suspension of work at a number of good mines in the Sandon district.

Canada's trade continues to boom. The financial statement for January shows revenue to have been \$3,512,149 as compared with \$3,046,262 for January of last year. The expenditure for December is \$6,304,177 as compared with \$6,441,520 for the same month last year. This shows a gain of \$740,000 over last year for the single month of January, and taking seven months to the end of January, is a betterment of \$1,764,881.

PROVIDENCE MINE.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Providence Mining and Development Company was held in this city on the 21st instant. Stockholders representing 800,000 shares were present. The secretary, Mr. W. G. Trethewey, then read the report of the mine manager, Mr. James O. Trethewey, as follows:

"The leads and the workings on the Providence mine:—On No. 1 workings a shaft was sunk fifty feet. Assays taken from different levels ranged from \$10 to \$1,000. At No. 2 workings a drift was made fifty feet, and some good ore got. The richest ore found on the claim was obtained from this working. At working No. 3 a shaft was sunk sixty feet, and a drift was made of thirty feet, and then a crosscut of sixty feet. This was to ascertain if the large ore body showing on the beach ran up hill, which, however, proved not to be the fact, but a small vein of one to four feet was encountered in this working, which is running up hill, apparently parallel to the ledge in workings No. 2. Working No. 4 was a prospect hole from which were taken two cars of good ore. At this point there seems to be a good body of high-grade ore, but so near the edge of the lake that it is subject to high water flooding. It is my opinion that the ledges indicated by workings No. 1 and No. 2 will, at no great depth, converge, and at that point the ore will be rich and in large quantities, as where the veins are widest, and where stringers come in, the ore is of better quality and quantity. There are now on the dump about 200 tons of fairly good ore.

Tools, supplies and machinery on the property:—One blacksmith outfit complete; one and a half tons of steel rails; two ore cars; picks and shovels; about 500 ore sacks; enough steel, with hammers, to last a moderate crew some months; one 8-horsepower engine, a hoisting gear complete; one power fan, suitable for ventilating 1,000 feet; 200 feet of air pipe; one No. 2 machine Rand drill, with all appliances for tunneling, stoping, or for shaft sinking, complete, and an assay outfit.

There are the following buildings:—One boarding and bunk house to accommodate twenty men; tool house; blacksmith shop; powder house, and assay office. There have been other improvements done, viz: Levels have been taken preparatory to putting in water power plant, and a road has been made for hauling lumber for the flume.

Claims owned by the company:—The Providence and Silver Bell mineral claims have been Crown granted. The Vancouver mineral claim, situate about one mile from the Providence, on the lake shore, was acquired by the company last fall. This is a galena proposition, and has the appearance of being a good wide ledge. No work has been done on this property, except the improvements made

for one year, as required by the Act

As the ore is partly free milling, a 10-stamp mill should be put on the property, and a concentrator. This would reduce the cost of treating the ore to one-tenth of what it costs by shipping to the smelter, as will be seen from the following: The company has a splendid water power on the property, which can be utilized at small cost; and for \$7,000 a stamp mill and a concentrator can be set up. The ore would then be treated at a cost of \$2 per ton; 40 per cent. of the gold would be saved on the plates, and the ore would be reduced twenty to one of its original bulk. Therefore, instead of paying for smelting and freighting \$13 per ton, \$260 for twenty tons, the cost would be but \$13, and 40 per cent., as before mentioned, would be saved at the mill. I have no hesitation in saying that, if a mill and concentrator were on the property we would have a paying concern."

The report was received, and the election of officers then deferred till February 28th.

AS TO MOTHER LODES.

With the idea that physiological principles run through the formation of ores, many miners believe in what is termed the "mother lode." It has grown to be a popular superstition in almost every mining district that somewhere in the locality a mother lode can be found, compared with which the kid lodes amount to nothing. Nobody thinks of looking for the brother lode, the sister lode of the mother-in-law lode, but all are on the search for the mother lode. As a matter of fact there is no such thing as a mother lode, unless at some great depth in the bowels of the earth a number of veins carrying similar classes of ore run together into a common body. But a mother lode, if entitled to that name, never comes to the surface. Some veins are larger than others, but there is no parentage implied in that fact. It is merely the circumstance of a larger fissure in the rocks filling up with veinous matter and ore. Thousands upon thousands of dollars have been squandered by men in search of some great parental lode. This is one of the most prominent features of a placer district. In the Klondike country promoters talk glibly about the mother lode as if a rich placer necessarily meant the existence of some lode that had mothered the deposits without impairing her own productive powers.—Western Mining World.

TO ALBERNI AND CLAYOQUOT.

Mr. Barclay Bonthron is, as the representative of the British Columbia Agency group of wealthy English and South African capitalists, now on a visit of inspection to the mine properties at Alberni and about Clayoquot, in which his principals are interested.

Mining Stock Quotations

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

COMPANY	CAPITAL	PAR VALUE	PRICE
TRAIL CREEK			
R. O. Gold Fields.....	\$2,500,000	\$ 2 00	\$ 11
Beaver.....	750,000	1 00	10
Big Three.....	4,500,000	1 00	10
Bruce.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Buzo.....	1,000,000	1 00	1 1/2
Ontedonian Con.....	500,000	1 00	0 1/2
California.....	2,500,000	1 00	8
Celtic Queen.....	750,000	1 00	5
Centre Star.....	500,000	1 00	
Colonna.....	1,000,000	1 00	20 1/2
Commander.....	500,000	1 00	15 1/2
Crown Point.....	1,000,000	1 00	
Deer Park.....	1,000,000	1 00	12
Delaware.....	1,500,000	1 00	12
Eastern Star.....	500,000	1 00	20
Enterprise.....	1,000,000	1 00	20
Eric.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 1/2
Evening Star.....	1,000,000	1 00	9
Georgia.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Gertrude.....	500,000	1 00	11
Golden Drip.....	500,000	1 00	
Great Western.....	1,000,000	1 00	11
Hattie Brown.....	1,000,000	1 00	4
High Ore.....	500,000	1 00	4
Imperial.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 5
Independent.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 6
Iron Horse.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Iron Mask.....	500,000	1 00	40
I. A.	1,000,000	1 00	10
Josie.....	700,000	1 00	30
Jumbo.....	500,000	1 00	65
Kootena - London.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Lo Hol.....	500,000	5 00	\$ 50
Lily May.....	1,000,000	1 00	20
Mayflower.....	1,000,000	1 00	8
Monita.....	750,000	1 00	16
Monte Cristo.....	1,000,000	1 00	23
Morning Star.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 7
Nest Egg.....	500,000	1 00	3
Northern Belle.....	1,000,000	1 00	5
O. K.	1,000,000	1 00	4
Palo Alto.....	1,000,000	1 00	4
Phoenix.....	500,000	1 00	8
Poorman.....	700,000	1 00	11
Red Mountain View.....	1,000,000	1 00	5
Roseland, Red M'cn.....	1,000,000	1 00	18
St. Elmo.....	1,000,000	1 00	6
St. Paul.....	1,000,000	1 00	8
Silverline.....	500,000	1 00	4
Southern C. & W. C.....	500,000	1 00	20
Virginia.....	500,000	1 00	15
War Eagle Con.....	2,000,000	1 00	1 06
West Lo Hol.....	500,000	1 00	1 10
White Bear.....	2,000,000	1 00	8
AINSWORTH, NELSON & SLOCAN			
American Boy.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Fern Gold.....	2,000,000	1 00	25
Ibex of Slocan.....	300,000	1 00	25
Arlington.....	1,000,000	1 00	12
Ago.....	100,000	1 00	10
Bethabara.....	1,000,000	1 00	28
Jack Hills.....	100,000	1 00	10
Buffalo of Slocan.....	150,000	1 00	25
Bondholder.....	1,000,000	1 00	
Alamo.....	500,000	1 00	
Canadian M. M. and S. Co.....	2,000,000	1 00	0 7 1/2
Columbia-Cariboo.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Cumberland.....	500,000	10 00	
Dardanelles.....	1,000,000	1 00	13 1/2
Delic.....	750,000	1 00	12
Eldon.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 5
Elise.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 5
Ellen.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 7 1/2
Elkhorn.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Exchequer.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Goodenough.....	800,000	1 00	25
Gibson.....	650,000	1 00	17 1/2
Grey Eagle.....	750,000	1 00	
Hall Mines.....	300,000	21	
Idler.....	1,000,000	1 00	12 1/2
London.....	150,000	25	25
Minnesota.....	1,000,000	1 00	
Nelson-Poorman.....	250,000	25	25
Northern Light.....	250,000	1 00	10 1/2
Noble Five Con.....	1,200,000	1 00	18
Ottawa and Ivanhoe.....	1,100,000	1 00	12 1/2
Phoenix Consolidated.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 5
Rambler Con.....	1,000,000	1 00	32
Reco.....	1,000,000	1 00	1 70
Slocan Reciprocity.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 6
Slocan Star.....	500,000	50	2 10
Santa Marie.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 5
Sheriff.....	1,000,000	1 00	24
Silver Band.....	250,000	25	12 1/2
Slocan Queen.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Star.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 5
St. Keverno.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 5
Sunshine.....	500,000	10 00	
Two Friends.....	240,000	30	15
Washington.....	1,000,000	1 00	25
Wonderful.....	1,000,000	1 00	0 1

COMPANY	CAPITAL	PAR VALUE	PRICE
LARDEAU			
Consolidated Sable Creek Mining Co..	\$1,500,000	\$ 1 00	\$ 100
TEXADA ISLAND			
Texada Proprietary.....	50,000	25	25
Van Anda.....	5,000,000	1 00	4 1/2
Victoria-Texada.....	150,000	25	25
Texada Kirk Lake.....	600,000	1 00	1 00
Raven.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Gold Bar.....	100,000	10	
VANCOUVER ISLAND			
Alberni Mountain Rose.....	250,000	1 00	5 1/2
Ambrozie.....	500,000	1 00	1 00
Consolidated Alberni.....	5 000,000	1 00	18
Mineral Creek.....	300,000	1 00	0 5 1/2
Mineral Hill.....	750,000	1 00	0 5
Quadra.....	500,000	1 00	10
CARIBOO			
Cariboo Gold Fields, L.C.....	\$100,000		
Cariboo Hydraulic Con.....	300,000	5 00	75
Horseshy Hydraulic.....	200,000		
Horseshy Gold Mining Co.....	1,000,000	10 00	10 00
Cariboo M. & D. Co.....	300,000	1 00	25
Golden River Quesnelle.....	2350,000	2 1/2	2 50
Victoria Hydraulic.....	300,000	1 00	85
LILLOOET DISTRICT			
Alpha Bell.....	500,000	1 00	42
Dominion Developing.....	22,500	25	25
Excelsior.....	500,000	1 30	50
Golden Cache.....	500,000	1 00	70
Lillooet Gold Reefs.....	300,000	25	25
Gayoosh Creek Mines.....	500,000	1 00	50
FAIRVIEW CAMP			
Tin Horn.....	200,000	25	25
Winches'er.....	200,000	25	25
BOUNDARY			
Old Ironsides.....	1,000,000	1 00	12
Golden Crown.....	2,000,000	1 00	20
Boundary Creek M. & M. Co.....	1,500,000	1 00	10
CAMP MCKINNEY			
Cariboo.....	800,000	1 00	55

Dividends paid to date are as follows: Lo Hol, \$725,000; War Eagle (Old Company), \$27,500; 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.

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

Payne.....	\$400,000	Goodenough.....	35,000
Idaho.....	240,000	Noble Five.....	50,000
Poorman.....	50,000	Northern Belle.....	20,000
Idaho.....	150,000	Antoine.....	10,000
Whitewater.....	151,000	Surprise.....	20,000
Washington.....	30,000	Monitor.....	15,000
Slocan Boy.....	25,000	Last Chance.....	50,000
		Fern.....	10,000

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FREEZEOUT IN KLONDIKE.

From the pen of some unknown poet, says Western Mining World, who probably perished in the attempt, the following parody on "Binger on the Rhine," has found its way into print. It portrays conditions in the Klondike region far better than prose :

A Dawson City man lay dying on the ice ;
 There was lack of woman's nursing, for he didn't
 have the price,
 But a comrade bent beside him, as the sun sank to
 repose,
 To hear what he might say and watch him while
 he froze.
 The dying miner raised his head above the field of
 snow,
 And he said : "I never saw it thaw at sixty-five
 below ;
 Take a message and a token to some distant friends
 thereat,
 For I was born at Gibbon, at Gibbon on the Platte.

"Tell my brothers and companions if you ever get
 back east,
 That the famous Klondike country is no place for
 man or beast ;
 That the mountains are too rugged and the weather
 is too cold,
 And the wheat fields of Nebraska yield a higher
 rate of gold.
 Tell my father not to sorrow, with a sorrow deep
 and dense :
 That I would not thus have perished if I'd had a
 lick of sense,
 But to keep the sorrel horses and the high-grade
 cattle fat,
 Upon the farm at Gibbon, at Gibbon on the Platte.

"And should you chance to meet her, tell the girl
 that I adored
 That I thought to be a millionaire, but couldn't pay
 my board ;
 For a day of honest labor wouldn't buy a pound of
 grease,
 And the charge for leather biscuits here is sixty
 cents apiece ;
 Good-bye," he murmured faintly, "I have nothing
 more to say,"
 Whereupon he breathed a time or two and froze up
 right away.
 And it took of golden nuggets, eighty pounds or
 more at that
 To ship him back to Gibbon, fair Gibbon on the
 Platte.

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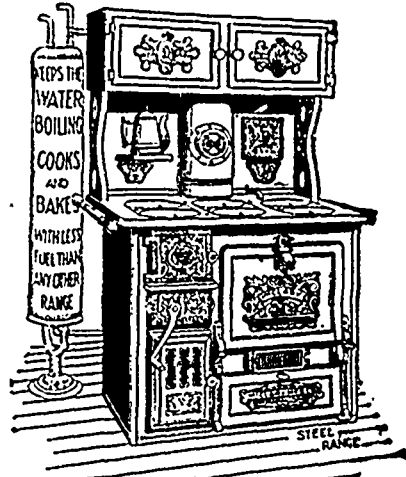
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Leave Kaslo for Nelson and way points, daily except Sundays, 5:45 a. m.
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Trains Run on Pacific Standard Time.

Going west	Daily	Going east
Lv 8:00 a.m.	Kaslo	Ar 3:50 p.m.
" 8:30 "	South Fork	" 3:15 "
" 9:30 "	Sproule's	" 2:15 "
" 9:51 "	Whitewater	" 2:00 "
" 10:01 "	Bear Lake	" 1:48 "
" 10:18 "	McGulgan	" 1:33 "
" 10:28 "	Junction	" 1:12 "
Ar 10:50 "	Sandon	Lv 1:00 "

SANDON AND CODY.

Lv 11:00 a.m.	Sandon	Ar 11:45 a.m.
Ar 11:20 "	Cody	Lv 11:25 a.m.

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

COLUMBIA & WESTERN RAILWAY CO.

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

EASTBOUND.

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

WESTBOUND.

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

Connections made with all boats arriving and departing from Trail.

GENERAL OFFICES, TRAIL, B. C. E. P. GUTELIUS, Gen. Supt

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Rivers Inlet and Neas River—SS. Coquitlam sails on 8th and 2nd of each month and will proceed to any part of the Coast should inducements offer.

Moodyville and North Vancouver Ferry—Leaves Moodyville: 8, 9:15, 10:45, 12, noon, 2, 4 and 5:45 p.m. Leaves Vancouver: 8:35, 10, 11:20, 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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Telephone 94. H. DARLING, Manager.

C. P. NAVIGATION CO., LTD

TIME TABLE NO. 32

Takes effect January 4th, 1898.

VANCOUVER ROUTE.

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

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

NEW WESTMINSTER ROUTE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTHERN ROUTE.

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

BARCLAY SOUND ROUTE.

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

KLONDIKE ROUTE.

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

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

JOHN IRVING, Manager.

G. A. CARLETON, General Agent.
Victoria.

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- W. M. SIMPSON.....Rosslund, B. C.
- LAMONT & YOUNG.....Kaslo, B. C.
- CLARK & STUART.....Vancouver, B. C.
- THOMSON BROS.....Vancouver, B. C.
- BISHOP'S.....Vancouver, B. C.
- E. GALLOWAY & CO.....Vancouver, B. C.
- BAILEY BROS.....Vancouver, B. C.
- NORMAN CAPLE & CO.....Vancouver, B. C.
- HOTEL VANCOUVER NEWS STAND, Vancouver.