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Kamloops and District
Mining Gazette.

*A Monthly Journal devoted to the Mining Interests
of the District of North Yale,
British Columbia.*

PUBLISHED BY W. W. CLARKE & F. E. YOUNG.

March, - 1900.

No. 15. - - Issued Monthly.

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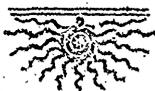
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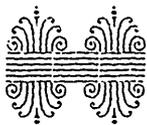
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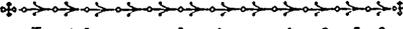
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Kamloops Mining Gazette.

VOL. 2. MARCH, 1900. No. 3



What We Think.



Just because business is slack for awhile don't take your advertisement out of the paper. Stay with it and see if you can't rake up a dollar for a subscription. We need it as bad as anyone, but the poor editor is always the last person on earth to get it. Of course we are confidently expecting our reward in Heaven, but the road there is a long one and is apparently paved with unreceipted bills. We have cut our solitary daily meal down to bread and cheese washed down with Thompson River water, and sometimes an occasional apple or an onion brought in by a sympathizing rancher. Our laundryman has gone back on us for some time past, and now we are reduced to the washing of our own shirts, while collars and cuffs are an undreamed of luxury. But still we don't kick, and always endeavor to wear a cheerful smile even if we cannot afford to wear anything else. Our appearance may be decidedly seedy and our coat considerably out at elbows, but we have unbounded confidence in our camp and in our citizens to help us pull through. Some editors are fortunate enough to possess a libel suit but we haven't even that. "So pass the hat for your credit's sake, and Pay! Pay!! Pay!!!"

In our last issue we made allusion to the amount of inquiries and in-

terest the mineral exhibit in the Strand (London, Eng.), had caused. Letters were received from various parts of England asking for information of the Kamloops camp, and scarcely a day passed but what assignations were arranged with prominent London mining brokers who were anxious to see specimens of the Kamloops copper ores and to ask questions about the railway facilities, cost of freight, rates of labor, etc.

That the mines of South Africa, Australia and other parts of the world have not yet made any perceptible inroad on the British speculators' pockets is apparent to anyone who pays a visit to England. There are absolutely millions of pounds lying idle there just waiting for a chance to be put into some legitimate business that will offer a fair return, and copper and gold mining appear to be the favorites. It may appear incredible to some people that Kamloops should be so little known in London, but such however is the fact. Nine hundred and ninety-nine persons out of every thousand have never even heard of the place, while by some it is associated with the Klondike. The boot store in the Strand, right opposite the Tivoli music hall, where the Kamloops mineral was put on show was often crowded with people, both inside and out, and it was sometimes very amusing to hear their remarks. It would have been a revelation to some of our business men to have stood there for a few moments. It would at all events have convinced them of the value of advertising.

Around Kamloops there is perhaps as great variety of minerals as

in any district in the world, and our copper deposits are as encouraging as one would wish to see considering the amount of work done on them. If we want to persuade British or any other capital to come in here we must not ask prices for practically undeveloped properties that should only be asked for proved mines. If a man possesses a claim and does a few hundred dollars worth of work on it exposing what looks like a vein, often times the man that owns the adjoining claim, although he has hardly done his assessment work, will ask a fabulous price for his property, on the strength of the other man's showing and work. It is just such hoggishness as this that keeps a camp back and the sooner it is remedied the better.

Up to the present British Columbia has not had a fair chance on the London market. There have perhaps been a few legitimate companies floated that may reasonably be expected to pay dividends, and for that matter may be doing so now; but there has been a very fair amount of "wildcats" started from which the investors will never receive a cent. It seems a peculiar thing that people can be induced to put their money into such hollow schemes, but we verily believe that if someone started a company for the purpose of extracting gold from the concentrated rays of the moon, and issued a plausible prospectus, he would find plenty of fools ready and willing to put up their money. What could be done with a really sound mining property put through in a perfectly business-like manner?

The questions asked by the mining and stock brokers in London about

this country are many and varied. In handling properties they always prefer groups, not single claims. They want to know how far they are from a railway, the cost of freight, treatment at the nearest smelter, rate of wages, cost of living, how much per foot for drilling rock, whether timber and water is plentiful, and a hundred other things. Also it is very evident that some of them keep posted on our legislative affairs out here for we were told that one thing against our country was that its government was in such a disturbed state.

It seems to be the opinion of many people that as soon as the Boer war is over British capital will crowd into South Africa, and that there will be no chance for any other country to obtain a share of it. There will be plenty left to come out here if we offer it some inducement, and also if we keep the name of British Columbia in general and Kamloops in particular before the eyes of the British speculator. This can only be done by advertising the camp as much as possible.

Gold in The North Thompson.

"Gold is wherever you find it," at least that is what old prospectors say, and they ought to know for some of them have spent a lifetime hunting for it. That there must be a peculiar fascination in the search for the elusive glittering yellow metal everyone knows who has tried it. We all like gold, and never seem to get too much of it—especially newspaper men. There is a certain amount of pleasure in looking at it even if we do not possess it. We like to think of all the nice things we could buy—for our

friends; how we could pay up all our back debts, look the whole world in the face, never have to dodge a creditor, and run our paper without the sheriff's assistance. It was with just such thoughts as these in our head that we accepted Mr. Kingsley's invitation to take a drive up the North Thompson River and look over the dredging grounds on the west side. Four of us started on Tuesday morning from the Dominion Hotel about 8 o'clock, in a two-horse rig, the sun shining brightly and a well furnished hamper stowed away behind. The ferry had to be crossed, a feat which was accomplished successfully, although we couldn't help thinking what a boon the bridge would be. The road was in perfect condition, and after driving a couple of miles or so we stopped to examine the contents of the hamper just to see if anything had been forgotten. Nothing was lacking but a corkscrew, which difficulty was soon overcome, and we sampled it all round to make sure. Once more we started, bowling along merrily, with scores of crows on either side keeping us company, probably knowing that we hadn't a gun in the party. It seems a pity there is not a bounty on these pests, for there is no doubt they work considerable havoc with the eggs of our game birds, besides carrying off young chickens. Mr. Noble's ranch was the next place we stopped at, that gentleman coming out to greet us in his usual cheery manner. Again the contents of the hamper came into prominence, Mr. Noble extending us a welcome to come into the house, an offer of which we could not avail ourselves as we

were in a hurry to get to the dredging grounds, but promised to call on our way back to investigate the gold bearing banks of the creek that runs into the Thompson close by. We were informed that \$4 to \$5 a day had been made on that creek by some prospectors a few years ago. One of our party was promised a young sucking pig provided he could lasso it, but he evidently thought there would be too much exertion required for he declined the offer.

From here on up to Donald McAuley's the river takes a bend in the form of a letter S, there being an enormous dredging bar in the centre. It was pointed out that the banks on both sides of the river was composed of nothing but auriferous gravel, all of which could easily be handled with a dredge. We passed through McAuley's ranch following a road leading to the river. Here we tied up the horses, fed them, and shouldering pick, shovel and pan started off on our hunt for gold. A bench covered with boulders of a few pounds weight was the first spot to try. These were easily shoveled on one side and a spadeful of gravel thrown into the pan which Mr. Kingsley proceeded to wash, whilst another tried his luck washing dirt on the shovel. In a couple of minutes the pan was nearly empty with the exception of a little black sand, which on being scattered disclosed to our anxious gaze several small flakes of gold, some as large as a pin's head. That was satisfactory so far, so we decided to try another spot lower down the river, going out on to a big bar where it looked as if some one else had been working with a rocker. Here

another pan was carefully tried with the result of so many colors that it was impossible to count them. Two or three other places were tried, always with the same result—gold in sight. Mr. Kingsley evidently understands the business of swirling a pan, and although it looks simple enough it has to be learnt. According to what we have read of New Zealand rivers and the way the dredges work thereon amongst nothing but immense rocks and boulders and yet manage to pay handsome dividends, we should say that the North Thompson will some day in the near future turn out a veritable New Eldorado, provided always of course that the gold can be saved. There is not a boulder in sight that cannot be lifted by any ordinary man with two hands and thrown over his shoulder, while the New Zealand dredges, according to government reports, lift rocks as large as a good sized table. Now what would one of those dredges be able to do upon our river?

It was now nearly three o'clock and our thoughts began to wander towards the hamper we had left in camp. It did not take long to get there, and we were soon seated on logs enjoying a hearty lunch. A large ant heap in our vicinity attracted our attention, and we were soon on very intimate terms with its busy little inhabitants, giving them some of the liquid with which we had washed down our lunch in a manner they did not seem to like at all.

About four o'clock we started for Kamloops, calling at Mr. Noble's on the way and washing two or three pans at the creek. All the way home the conversation ran on the

prospects of the North Thompson, and everyone seemed well satisfied with the result of the day's outing.

Dredging on the North Thompson.

We are at last pleased to be able to chronicle that the dredging industry is likely to be an established fact. Last week we notified that Mr. E. C. Kingswell had arrived here from New Zealand to report upon our River, and he informs us that he is so pleased with the prospects of our river that he has returned representing capital, and has already pegged off 15 miles of the river Thompson, from Louis Creek to below Jamieson Creek. Mr. Kingswell has returned with Mr. A. Morwood, a man who has had long practical experience upon all the rivers of New Zealand, and he proceeds up the river accompanied by men to thoroughly test the claims taken up. We have asked him to furnish us with information, and the following is his reply:

"In New Zealand the dredging industry has reached astonishing dimensions. In one week in Wellington, by last papers received 35 companies were placed upon the market representing a capital of £235,000 or \$1,275,000 beside a large number being forwarded privately, and the public were rushing the shares. It mentions that most of the shares in the working dredges are now beyond the reach of the ordinary small investors. Do the returns from dredges warrant this excitement is the question asked. Most assuredly they do, as nearly all the dredges are returning dividends, and a large number are paying fortunes. Take for instance the Hartley & Riley dredge upon the Clusia river. This dredge has paid over \$15 upon \$5

shares, and is now quoted at \$48.50. The Golden Gate is \$30 upon \$5 shares, and has also paid a large amount in dividends. In fact there are several that have paid 150 per cent. upon their capital, and large numbers pay over 50 per cent. per annum. The three electric dredges are another instance. The entire cost of plant was \$35,000 and the net profit was \$280,000 for two years. In fact up to 1899 out of 140 dredges working in New Zealand nearly all were paying dividends and none were failures.

"The average cost of working up to this year is 11 oz. of gold per week for even the largest dredge. In fact dredging in New Zealand has completely knocked quartz mining on the head. As an instance, when I was leaving N.Z. I wired to a broker: 'Please sell 760 shares Alpine Quartz 4s., quotations 6s.' Reply, 'No shares in quartz ever offered or sold in Dunedin.' This fact speaks for itself.

"The facilities for successful dredging is first the gold in the river. Four cents per yard pay all expenses, so I will ask the people of Kamloops 'does your river contain that much?' I fancy so when I a day or two ago washed out a pan of dirt and got two grains of gold, and saw five men working upon the bar of Thompson river who informed me that they have made as high as \$2.50 per day with a rocker. Our dredges in New Zealand can easily lift up 2,500 yds. per day, or over 100 yards of gravel per hour, and have greater facilities for saving gold than the ordinary rocker. A rocker I reckon puts through 2 to 2½ yards per day, so kindly estimate yourselves what a dredge is likely to get

when you start one upon that particular bar, and it is not a small one either.

The next important thing is the bottom and depth of wash. Mr. Shields informs me that he drove 150 piles in the river and they struck blue clay at 25 to 30 feet. This is exactly the right thing. We can build a dredge with a ladder capable of lifting from a bottom of 40ft., but the average of 25 to 30ft. is just the thing.

"The bottom is one of the greatest factors for successful dredging as all old placer miners know that as you stir up wash so will gold sink. As proof of this in dredging it is always the bottom buckets in a dredge that brings up the gold. So therefore you want a good soft bottom so that your buckets can take up a few inches and so get all the gold. I know a large number of dredges in N.Z. that have even a rock bottom, they get a certain amount of gold and pay well, but the wonders have all a bottom like your Thompson. The quality of wash is another item. We wink at boulders even a ton weight now in New Zealand, but I will ask anyone to contradict me when I say that up to the Canyon I cannot find a boulder 2 cwt. in bed or bank of river. I say your wash is perfect, with just the right amount of gravel in it to make the elevators work well.

"The quantity of ground to dredge in N.Z. we are allowed to take up is one mile of the river. Here I have taken up, and can do so I understand, five miles frontage on any river, and you can take up bench claims to make up hundreds of acres of dredging ground.

"The facilities of transportation and fuel are about perfect. Here

you have a river that undoubtedly contains a large amount of gold, that is navigable for 150 miles. Need I say any more upon this subject.

"Dredging so far you say in B.C. has been a failure. So it was in N.Z. until we found out the right dredge to place upon the river, and your greatest failures have been upon the Fraser river. Why these failures? Has that river a fair bottom? Has a decent dredge been placed upon that river? Is the gold there? are questions I cannot answer. I am certain no proper dredge has yet worked any river in B.C., as I have had enquiries made at a large number of foundries both in San Francisco and elsewhere, and replies have been a spoon dredge is the right thing. How I smiled when I read that. We gave up spoon dredges years ago and will never go back.

"In conclusion I should like to say that I unhesitatingly state that very large returns will be got out of your Thompson river, and I say wake up Kamloops and do not let all the good things go from your own doors. It will be said, of course, that I am a speculator come here to boom the dredging and make money out of people's pockets. Well, yes, I am here certainly to make dollars, but I do not intend to sell one claim I have taken up, have already refused to do so. I will make money by holding on to my shares, and that I intend to do, and I cordially invite any resident of this place to contradict any statement I have made if they are contrary to facts. I say dredging here will knock all your copper and gold mines out of the market.

"If anyone would like further information upon this subject let me say I shall be happy to furnish him with it. I am armed with all books upon dredging and also statistics. Next paper I shall endeavor to contrast the dredging industry as against quartz, and I can guarantee one will cut a poor figure.

Mines & Mining

A Visit to The Erin Claim.

Last Sunday in company with Messrs. R. Blair, J. Blair and Phillip Foster we paid a visit to the Erin property, situated about 3 miles from town. When we started it was pouring with rain but as we were well covered up in Blair's large wagon it did not inconvenience us much. On our way up the hill we took aboard a keg of blasting powder and for the remainder of the journey Dick Blair sat on the top of it smoking his pipe as if he were in an arm chair. - One spark inside that barrel would have sent us all farther aloft than ever we shall get; unless we go up in a balloon, but nothing of the kind occurred. We had brought a shotgun along with us and Mr. Foster managed to bring down a crow, but experienced considerable difficulty in dispatching it completely.

We were not long in reaching the Erin, the road being a good one, and drove up to a substantial log cabin where we tethered the horses.

Donning overalls we then proceeded to the shaft, some 60 or 70 yards away, where we found a dump of copper ore a great deal larger than we had expected. We first of all went into a side tunnel, driven in

some 66 feet, through a mass of gangue, impregnated with copper pyrites, azurite and malachite. We picked some very pretty specimens from the walls, but the mosquitoes which had probably got in there out of the wet grew so bad that they almost put our lights out, and we were glad to get into the open air again. The shaft has been sunk close by in a slanting direction about 10 feet in depth, following a red streak of decomposed quartz carrying \$18 to the ton in gold. A ladder runs the whole of the way down with a slide on either side for the ore buckets one up and one down, worked by a horse whim on the surface. An ingenious affair and very simple, there not being the slightest danger of a rope breaking.

On descending the shaft to say we were surprised at the amount of work done would be a mild way of expressing it. Altogether there is about 200 feet of tunnelling with a 100 foot shaft, making 300 feet in all, driven through a body of decomposed copper ore carrying a high percentage of gold. The bottom tunnel, running in a S. S. W. direction, is in over 70 feet and the owners expect to reach the hanging wall in about another 100 feet where they should find more solid ore.

Only two men have been working and they have certainly made a splendid shewing. The owners, Messrs. Beattie, Buxton and Blair, are men not given to talking much about their property, evidently believing that work counts more than talk, and they deserve credit for the way in which they are exploiting this promising claim.

"Grubstaking."

In a country like the United States, wherein are large areas of

mineral lands, much of it unprospected and a very small fraction of it developed; wherein the people are generally prosperous and a large number of them wealthy; wherein mining has been the beginning or the whole of many fortunes, and where those fortunes are still largely employed in the business, constituting a safe precedent; wherein method and appliance advance first, and the technical side of the industry is represented by most competent men—it would seem in such a country, that the homely termed business of "grubstaking" should be profitable employment for incomes beyond reasonable requirements. There are men to be picked out from many, and yet there are not a few, who possess the qualifications necessary to successful prospecting. Hardy, energetic intelligent and honest should be the label on a man before he is entrusted with the funds of his backers. In addition he should possess some knowledge of mineralogy, geology and lithology; but more important than these is experience. Assuming that this kind of a man is to be had, suppose him to be furnished with a monthly allowance—say, \$100—sufficient to support and transport him, pay for assays, etc., and assume that he will keep constantly at work for three years. This would be an investment of \$3600—a less amount than is usually asked for the commonest kind of a prospect. It is almost certain that within the three years the man would find ten prospects worth \$3600 and one worth \$36,000. Of course he would have to be considered and taken care of and he should be. Why isn't "grubstaking" a good investment?—Mining and Scientific Press.

Local Claims.

The breaking up of the winter, inaugurates another season of activity upon Coal Hill. Upon many of the claims, preparations are being made for a considerable amount of surface work, and on others the development already started, will be actively pushed. Messrs. Ashby and Donaldson are putting a staff of men to work on the Truth Group, and the shaft will be continued to the 80ft. level, when cross-cuts and drifts will be sure to ascertain the value of their promising lead.

Work upon the "Erin" is being pushed rapidly, and another 50ft. of drift will be at once added to the work already completed.

Upon the "Iron Cap," the assessment has just been completed with satisfactory results.

Work still continues upon the Hecla Group, which adjoins the Python to the east. There is no doubt as to the fact that the owners of this group have a valuable asset in their property.

The staff of the Python is now working two shifts, and the double compartment shaft is now down to the 120 ft., and the prospects of this property making a mine are better than ever.

Upon the O.K. Group, a series of cross-cuts will be run for the purpose of uncovering the strike of the Lucky Strike lead, which runs

through the southern end of this property. If it is shewn by this work that the values are equal to those obtained at the point of crop on the Lucky Strike, the value of this group which has already proved the continuity of the Iron Mask lead into the ground covered by the group, will be greatly enhanced.

On the "Mask" lead, the owners have already sunk a 60ft. shaft and have 60ft. of cross-cut at the 10ft. level, besides the surface work done in other parts of the group. A series of open cuts will be run on the Snowbird and Kandahar, upon the strike of the Python lead, and the owners feel confident from the present indications, that they will succeed in proving the value of their property.

H. Ashby has four men at work on the Truth group. The shaft is now down sixty feet, and is entirely in a fair grade of ore. The ore as it comes to the surface is sorted, and the high grade ore will be shipped to the Trail smelter. It is the intention of the owners to sink to a depth of eighty feet, then cross-cut the vein for fifty feet in each direction.

Last week an expert was up the North Thompson to examine the gold bearing quartz ledges in the vicinity of Jamieson Creek. This district has long been a favorite with Kamloops prospectors. The veins here are very large, approaching the massive in many instances. The quartz carries fair values, and the occurrence in large bodies, renders mining very economical. We predict that the time is not far distant when mining and milling on an ex-

tensive scale will be in operation near Jamieson Creek.

Messrs. Lavery & Legacy have done assessment work on the Quilchena, and another claim at Quilchena. These claims are very favorably situated for mining, being on the steep hill overlooking the Triangle. The proposed railway from Boundary to Spencer's bridge will run through the claims. The veins are of mineralised quartz, assaying high values in gold.

Good work is being done at the Tenderfoot mine. A tunnel was driven to meet the vein at a depth of about 75 feet, the vein was met at 105 feet, and proved on cross-cutting to be 12 feet wide. The vein itself is very evenly mineralised with bornite, the regular mineralisation being very remarkable, as it is impossible to pick a piece of barren rock from the vein itself. Samples taken across the vein assay up to 10 per cent. of copper, with small gold and silver values. Drifting on the vein in each direction was begun about a month ago. The drifts are now in 25 feet. The values in the west drift are improving as the old workings are approached. The values in the east drift are similar to those met in the cross-cut. The work done by this company is an example of what local capital can do when well organised under a capable mine superintendent. The Tenderfoot was taken over by a company about three months ago, and the work already done makes the mine of double the value to-day. The success which has attended the Tenderfoot company augers well for the

development of other promising properties by local syndicates.

Mr. W. M. Brewer, the B. C. correspondent of the Mining and Engineering Journal of New York was in town last week and paid a visit to the Python, Kimberly, Lucky Strike and the Pothook. He expresses himself as being thoroughly satisfied with the future of the camp.

The Mining Committee of the Board of Trade has given excellent reasons for its exertion lately. They have leased half of the Telegraph Office for a permanent mineral exhibit. The office has been fitted up with cases for the minerals, which the claim owners are requested to supply. The first ore to be placed in position was a 130 lb. sample from the Tenderfoot. We are convinced that this is one of the best advertisements that Kamloops can have. All visitors will be impressed with the valuable ores from the Kamloops camp, and if they have not the opportunity to visit the mine, the exhibition will practically be bringing the mines to the town.

The B. C. Exploration Co., have bonded the Maxwell, Neighbour, and Bluebird mineral claims, owned by J. Morrison and others, and which adjoin the Lucky Strike group owned by the same Co. The price is \$25,000 of which two and a half per cent has been paid. The Company has to keep a staff of men working for twelve months, when the balance will be due. Mr. Argall, Secretary of the Company. is in town and making the necessary arrangements.

Mr. J. Fleetwood Wells has been appointed local manager for an English syndicate, organized by Mr. J. W. Bromhead, to operate some valuable mining properties on Ten-mile Creek, Nicola. Mr Wells goes to Nicola shortly to superintend operations.

The first payment was made on the Tenderfoot on Saturday, and it is the intention of the directors to proceed to the incorporation of the company forthwith.

THE MINING RECORDS.

Madras—on Mill's Mtn. adj. Bengal Mineral claim, John Clapperton, March 3rd.

Mount Ida Eureka—3 miles S. W. of Salmon Arm; S. M. McGuire and G. W. McLeod, March 5.

Silver Nugget—2½ miles W. of Sicamous Station, George Inch; March 7.

Honest John—2 miles S. of Salmon Arm, F. A. McLeod; March 8.

Bondimingo—2 miles S. of Salmon Arm. Alex. McDonald; March 8.

Square Pusher—3½ miles S. of Salmon Arm, McLeod, McDonald and McGuire; March 8.

Rachel—6 miles S. of Kamloops; J. H. Morrison; March 10.

Tenderfoot Extension—adj. Tenderfoot, Copper Creek, J. Fleetwood Wells; March 10.

Snowbird—on Coal Hill S. of O. K. Group, Freeman Harding; Mar. 12.

Kandahar—adj. Snowbird, F. C. Pink; March 12.

Moonshine—rear Copper Creek, 1 mile up from lake, Alex. Hardie; March 14.

Alice—near Cherry Creek adj. Copper King, A. G. McDonald;

Queen—1 mile N. of Jamieson Creek, A. G. McDonald; March 17.

Transvaal—2 miles S. of Miller's ranche, J. R. Michel; March 19.

Omega—on Coal Hill adj. Golden Star, J. A. Fleet; March 20.

Ben Lomond—E. of Copper Creek, W. of Newark, A. J. Colquhoun; March 21.

East India—4 miles N. of Lower Nicola, adj. Bengal, John Wilson; March 19.

White Star—6 miles S. W. of Kamloops, J. Park; March 26.

Maxwell—6 miles S. W. of Kamloops T. W. Lambert; March 26.

Cawnpore—on Mill's Mtn., M. S. Davys; March 26.

Plymouth—at Jones' Lake, R. L. Chaldecott; March 30.

Penzance—on Jones' Lake, A. W. Chaldecott, March 30.

Little Bobs—4 miles S. W. of Kamloops, W. L. Crawford; March 31.

ASSESSMENT WORK.

Eureka, De Grant, and Swaney—Eureka Mining Company.

Fragment and Oriental—M. S. Wade.

Saucy Lass—Pedro Mining Cop.

Ludlow—R. M. Woodward.

Gordon. Cedar, Poplar, Pine,

Cottonwood—Ray Mining Co.

Iron Cap—McLeod, Harvey, and Bulkley.

Ethel Jean—J. L. Brown.

Maggie J.—Chris. Stotz.

Province—T. J. Thynne.

Isabel—J. L. Brown Mining Cop.

Last Chance—W. Purdey and J. R. Hull.

Pittsburg—A. McDonald and F. A. McLeod.

Copper Lode—H. W. Crawford.

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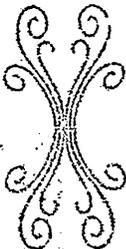
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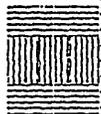


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