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# British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

WEEKLY EDITION.

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## NOTICES.

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FRANK S. TAGGART,  
Editor and Managing Director.

## British Columbia Mining Critic

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## EDITORIAL.

### THE REVISED YUKON REGULATIONS.

The amendments of the Yukon mining regulations, formulated by the Dominion Government, appear, so far as can be gathered, from doubtless generally correct synopses of their chief provisions which have been telegraphed to the press, to improve the Northern mining code in some important respects, whilst, however, leaving very much to be desired, and embodying very much that is open to the strongest objection, as regards other points. The enlargement of a miners' placer claim from 100 to 250 feet meets half-way the demands in this respect of the men in the Yukon, and embodies a desired betterment of previous regulations by making them more liberal, as they assuredly ought to be, in a sub-Arctic region that is exceptionally trying, and beyond all others on this earth, hazardous. The discoverer of a new ground, is moreover; certainly, at least, entitled to the concession now made, of double frontage, extending to 500 feet.

It is also better, as lessening the number of a still assured host of troublous contentions between working miners and the Dominion authorities, that instead of an absolutely futile attempt to reserve alternate claims to the State, the alternation is to proceed by groups of ten claims, thus retaining for the State alternate sets of claims. The matter will, however, still prove very difficult to adjust, whilst

if the Government's reserve groups of ten claims each be used for the purpose of letting in block to organizations—generally largely representing "outsiders," there will result grievous disappointment and disaffection amongst Yukon goldseekers, who will, in many thousands of cases, find themselves unable even to earn living wages if, as expected, there be this year an inordinate inrush to Klondike and other Yukon districts of from 200,000 to 250,000 persons. Like objection, rather less in degree, applies to the provision that "subaqueous" gold ground in the Yukon should be leased at a fixed fee of \$100 per annum, plus the usual royalty. The word "subaqueous" reads ambiguously, and it is to be hoped will be found so interpreted in the code, as to make it quite clear that only dredging leases are intended, which leases must,—the work being costly and involving large risk of disappointment—of necessity, be granted over reaches of some length. If, however, the word "subaqueous" is possible of strain so as to include shallow creek claims covered, it may be, by a few inches or only a foot or two of water, and thus easily dammed for pick and shovel work, it is clear that there is strong objection to the allowance of such big State grants in a land where the individual miner, with little capital save thews and sinews, will, in any case, stand at great risk of being "crowded to the wall," and then literally starved out. Surely, even a dredging lease in the Yukon need not, in each and every case, include such a length as five miles, whilst the fixture of a definite rental of \$100, instead of a competitive one, obviously opens the door to all kinds of favoritism by men in office, and even Canada's present administrators, fair as is deservedly the repute of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and certain of his colleagues, are only human, some of them, the Hon. Mr. Tarte being a distinguished example in point, being quite exceptionally so. And already, indeed, there are ominous rumors of the grant of a lease of big and probably specially rich Yukon areas, to, or in favor of some of the world's greatest capitalists, necessarily to the exclusion of many otherwise eligible opportunities of the working miner.

Lastly, we hold that it is very bad policy to exact 10 per cent. royalty on gold output from men

entering a country like the Yukon, which in outfit and travelling outlay it costs, on an average, at least \$500 to enter, and in which in addition to the incurring of great risks of health and even life, a bare living costs, and long will cost from \$2,000 to \$2,500 a year. Only a very rich claim should therefore be laden with so large a tax as 10 per cent. on output, the exemption of the first \$2,500 from the duty being really but a small one. And is certain as aught well can be, that for each Yukon claim that yields a small fortune, there will be ten others, either unproductive or only such as give little beyond a "living wage" return, from whose owner it were cruel to exact, in addition to big direct and indirect deductions in heavy customs and excise dues on commodities, as well as license and other fees, a very heavy royalty. A five per cent. royalty, rising only to ten per cent. in the case of exceptionally productive claims, would be ample in a land where, judging by the precedent of the 130,000 people of B. C., 200,000 to 250,000 in the Yukon will credit Ottawa in customs, excise, license and postal revenue contributions, with a total return of at least \$2,500,000—more likely \$3,000,000—a year, without counting in a cent for royalties. And we venture to assert that if the \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000 be so contributed, the case of the Yukon will be, like that of B. C., the instance of a far western region returning to the State of Canada yearly a big tribute in cash, far in excess of public expenditure locally incurred by the Dominion. Excise alone, in a land where whisky is and will be by most of the temporary settlers, regarded as a prime necessity of life, yield a very big revenue indeed to Ottawa, one in all probability quadrupling at least the present large like contributions of our own Province, where amongst more than 40,000 Indians and Chinese, most are almost, if not complete, habitual abstainers from intoxicants, whilst of our remaining 90,000 or 100,000 people, very large numbers are either pledged or customary "teetotallers." And as all know, a vast customs revenue must be contributed to Canada by dwellers in the Yukon, who will import hugely, and thus be subjected in hosts of cases, to the big customs duties of a land, which, whilst nominally under a "free trade" favoring Government, still enjoys or disrelishes—disrelish being the usual case of dwellers in the heavily mulcted Pacific region—the results in raised prices of an extremely protective tariff. For these and other reasons, which might easily be given, we cannot join the usual chorus of all-approval, that is now sung by many hide-bound party organs, in respect of the revised Yukon regulations. Nor can we consider them by any means a good exemplification of an adage dear to the friends of things that be, who ever feel inclined to optimism and therefore nourish a half belief that "all is for the best in the best of worlds." We

therefore, agree in one special instance at least with Mr. Frank Oliver, M. P., who, sturdy western Liberal though he is, holds that all the Mounted Police in the Yukon will be unable to collect more than a little at best of an excessive ten per cent. royalty on output. The duty will, in a host of cases, be evaded in others, it may even be, resisted with success if, as is likely enough, opposition to the exaction well nigh prove unanimous on the part of at least 200,000 more or less sturdy seekers of a frigid fortune.

#### THE PROPOSED PROVINCIAL CHAMBER OF MINES.

We are distinctly of opinion that there should be scope in this, the "banner" mine Province of Canada, for the establishment, on lines similar to those on which such institutions as mine Chambers have, as useful working bodies, been founded elsewhere in other mining countries of the British Empire. There is no need for such an institution to clash either with the work of any Board of Trade, or with the larger scope of the Federated Canadian Mining Institute.

The work of a Board of Trade, of which bodies British Columbia already possesses several strong examples, and will possess many others, is of necessity more or less local. A Board of Trade, too, has its own all round commercial work of supervision to accomplish, and though such a board may well include in suitable districts a mining sub-committee or department, it cannot specialize to the same extent, as a Provincial Chamber of Mines. The latter should in its voluntary work continuously supervise all the greatly varying mining interests of a big Province, but a Board of Trade, even though, as in the case of the Victoria, it proudly arrogates a title to be "all British Columbian rather than Victorian," is more or less bound to take a narrower and more localized view of things in general. On the other hand, the mining men of a Province such as ours, may well establish for themselves a Chamber of Mines, instead of being more or less completely dependent upon a national body such as the Federated Mining Institute, which at present, by-the-by, largely does its work from far away Montreal. It is, however, quite possible for a Provincial Chamber of Mines to be in some manner connected, officially or otherwise, with a larger national body, such as the Federated Institute.

And just as it is well for a Province to have its own Legislature—in addition to its share in the National Parliament and its organized local municipalities, so is it advisable, if the Chamber can be established on right lines, that such a Provincial body be set up, in addition to a National Mining Institute embracing all Canada, and a number of Boards of Trade or Mining Associations representing more or less important localities within a

Province. There is not the slightest need, nor would it be desirable—as an opponent of the proposal suggested to be possible in the course of the recent Board of Trade meeting—for the proposed Provincial Chamber of Mines to shackle mining development by seeking restrictive legislation.

A well conducted Provincial Chamber of Mines has, on the contrary, big scope for multifarious special work, as its objects—quoted elsewhere in our columns—prove, without seeking in anywise to promote hampering legislation. Very much the reverse is the attitude of a well constituted and well advised and capably directed Chamber of Mines, for such body will do all in its power to further the development of the mining industry by, amongst other things, supporting soundly advised legislation which, whilst adjusting the laws of the land to the due requirements of the mining of the country, will safeguard the permanent interests of the industry, by preventing fraud and misrepresentation and aiding, in all legitimate ways, a great mining country in general, and its sturdy mine workers and trusting mine investors in particular.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is to be hoped that the Dominion Government will not make any very considerable grant in aid of the proposed railroad between Edmonton and the Klondike, the route being very long, difficult and dangerous, and any costly railroad constructed along it being quite unlikely to earn dividends or even pay its way. There would be more to be said, perhaps, for aid towards light railroad communication, intended to open for settlement a large tract of country more immediately north of Edmonton. The Edmonton-Klondike route is almost an impossible one, and certainly impassable for 99 of every 100 would be northern travelers. Reports to the contrary have had the effect of dangerously misleading not a few would-be Yukon gold-seekers hailing from England. The sea, land and river routes from the British Columbia coast, and the inland route from Eastern British Columbia via Ashcroft are infinitely preferable to the suggested Edmonton-Klondike route of travel.

Few indeed of the leading insurance companies will accept new Life risks on Klondike goldseekers, the noted Sun Life Company being an exception, and quoting a special and necessarily high rate on the lives of intending settlers in Klondike. The companies will, however, as a rule—this being the case with the North American Life, the Confederation Life, the Imperial Insurance company, the Northern Life, the Sun Life, the Great West, and Aetna, amongst other offices—permit travel to the Yukon under old policies. No doubt, when the Yukon country gets further opened and easier of access for travel and supplies, the insurance compa-

nies in general will, at higher rates, accept Klondike life risks. Most will not, however, do so ere the end of the present season and its certain tale of many and great disasters to rash, weak, inexperienced or ill-supplied prospectors in the Yukon.

The mad rush to the far north should and must be most obnoxious to the interests of Ontario and Quebec in general, though it must add to the large temporary impetus given to the manufacturing life of the larger cities. It bids fair to drain from Eastern Canada much of the best blood of fair rural districts, that are even now, in many cases, comparatively slightly developed and thinly peopled. The sturdy Eastern Canadian rural settler will certainly, as a rule, fare better by remaining at home, though such a man may, of course, in exceptional cases, "make his pile" in the Yukon. Better far for him, as a rule, if he will make west, to better himself in the "coming Province" of Canada, our own vast and varied territory of British Columbia, wherein doubtless many an Eastern migrant will to his own ultimate advantage find it needful to stay, without attempting to journey "due north."

The Hon. C. H. Mackintosh is likely to feel almost "spoiled for choice" in and about Rossland, so numerous are the mine and mine claim offers now made to him in his capacity of Canadian managing director of the great British American Corporation. Amongst other overtures, it seems fairly certain that the Heinze syndicate of Trail has made offers to the corporation for the sale of the valuable smelting, railroad and other interests of the syndicate. If ever a man needed to keep a "level head" such must surely be the case of Mr. Mackintosh just now. And, judging from statements of his, his line of action will be in the direction of conservatism—non-political, of course—and safety.

The Silvertonian thinks that the adverse comments of the *MINING CRITIC* on the Galena Mines flotation have been inspired by personal spleen, and adds that the editor has never visited the mines. The former assertion is unfounded; and as to the latter, the editor writes on the strength of expert information, obtained by highly competent men connected with the *MINING CRITIC*, who have visited and carefully scrutinized the Galena mines and their working.

The annual report of the Golden Cache Company contains a very significant admission, which implies that the results of the latest operations at the mine were by no means conducted so efficiently as they should be. The vanners of the mill were, it is stated, frozen, as a result of which all the concentrates from 755 tons of ore treated were lost. And these concentrates should, in the opinion of capable men, have proved more than equal to the results obtained from the mill crush-

ing. Half the possible gold results of the work were therefore lost. The vanners should never have been allowed to freeze, and thus cause the loss of valuable concentrates. All which goes to show that granted skilled and well directed management in the future, there is good reason to anticipate the ultimate success of a temporarily disappointing gold mining company.

#### PROPOSED BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAMBER OF MINES.

It is proposed to establish, in and for British Columbia, following examples in Australia and South Africa, a Chamber of Mines. The chief objects of the suggested Chamber's work would be as follows:

1. To promote and protect the mining interests and industries of the Province of British Columbia.
2. To consider all questions connected with the mining industry, and to promote public discussion thereon.
3. To promote legislative and other measures affecting such mining industry.
4. To collect and circulate statistics and other information relating to such mining industry.
5. To communicate with and exchange information upon mining matters with chambers of mines or government departments of mines in the Dominion of Canada and other countries.
6. To procure information as to mines, mining companies, and all matters relating thereto, and circulate the same.
7. To establish, form and maintain a library, and museum of models, specimens, designs, drawings, and other articles of interest in connection with the mining industry, for the use of members.
8. To act as arbitrators in the settlement of any disputes arising out of mining.
9. To sell, improve, manage, lease, mortgage, dispose of, turn to account, or otherwise deal with any part of the property of the Chamber.
10. To invest the moneys of the Chamber, not immediately required, upon such security or conditions, and on such terms, or otherwise in such manner as may from time to time be determined.
11. To borrow any money required for the purposes of the Chamber upon such securities as may be determined.
12. To obtain, whenever, thus determined, an act of the Provincial Legislature for the incorporation of the Chamber, and any other act which may be deemed conducive to any of these objects.

The membership of the Chamber is to consist of five classes, namely:

- (1) Representative members.
- (2) Associate members.
- (3) Honorary members.
- (4) Foreign members.
- (5) Visiting members.

Various rates of subscription will, in due course, be fixed for all the above classes of members, save and except, of course, those that are honorary.

Clauses 13 and 14 provide that syndicates, associations of owners, claim owners and companies may, on terms of subscription to be fixed, nominate representative members; whilst any resident in the Province directly interested in mining may become an associate member of the Chamber, on nomination and election, and payment of a subscription, to be fixed in due course.

The appointment of honorary members is placed in the hands of the Chamber's executive committee, such honorary members to have the privileges of associate members of the Chamber without liability to subscription.

Foreign members are to pay a reduced subscription, to receive copies of all the Chamber's publications, and be entitled to all the privileges of associate members.

Visiting members, not being residents of the Province, may be duly nominated and elected for a period of three months on payment of a subscription, to be duly fixed, and are to enjoy the privileges of associate members, but are not to attend meetings of the Chamber unless invited by the executive committee.

Other usual provisions of similar organizations follow, including rules for the election of a managing or executive committee, but all the regulations are, of course, subject to large revision and modifications by the organizing temporary committee, of which Mr. W. J. Waterman is acting secretary, and which includes a representative body of British Columbia mining men.

#### THE NELSON DISTRICT'S ADVANCE.

The trade returns of the port of Nelson for the month of December furnish the best evidence of the progress now being made in development of the mines of Southern Kootenay. For the month just closed the value of mineral exports is given at \$837,004. Of this amount \$417,162 represented the value of 617 tons of copper matte, \$415,866 the value of crude ore, and \$3,976 the value of gold bullion. Compared with the corresponding month of 1896 the mineral exports show a gain of almost 60 per cent., and as against December, 1895, a gain of about 800 per cent. In December, 1896, the mineral exports aggregated \$523,200, and in December, 1895, \$116,921 as against \$837,004 for the month just closed. The figures with respect to the revenue collections show that for the month of December the total amount of duty collected was \$22,966.59. The Dominion is making a big profit out of Kootenay revenue contributions, as is also its case as concerning the payments of the Province in general. Ottawa takes good care to exact more than it returns to British Columbia by many hundred thousand dollars yearly.

## MINING ENGINEERS MEET.

The second annual meeting of the British Columbia Institute of Mining Engineers, held in this city, on Tuesday and Wednesday, was not largely attended, and several papers that were to have been read and discussed were passed over until the March meeting. Only two papers were discussed at any length. No sessions were held in the afternoon.

Amongst the members of the association present were: Mr. A. Williams, M. P. P., Major-General Kinchant, Major Vaughn, Mr. G. F. Monckton, Col. T. H. Tracy, Messrs. W. Skene, William Blakemore, A. J. Colquhoun, W. J. Waterman, H. B. Wilson, H. K. Walton, H. Perry Leake, C. N. Black, J. Coupland, B. T. Bell, C. N. Davidson, and — Meiklejohn.

Shortly after 3 o'clock Mr. Bell said to the few present that owing to delayed trains and other causes a number of members of the association were absent, and he thought it would be well to adjourn, to 8 o'clock. This course was adopted, and soon after 8 o'clock the evening session was called to order, Mr. W. Blakemore, of Nova Scotia, being elected chairman. Mr. Blakemore, in accepting the honor conferred upon him, said that he was a member of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, and also a member of the Canadian Mining Institute. He was in favor of a federated institute for the reason that one central body could best represent the mining interests of the country. He spoke of the vast mineral resources of the Dominion, and was glad to know that the mining men were uniting in their efforts to develop the mineral portion of Canada.

Naturally Mayor Garden was the next speaker, and in his official capacity welcomed the association. His remarks were terse and to the point. He knew that when they selected Vancouver as a meeting point they recognized the city as the mining center of the Province. He was aware that the floating of "wildcat" schemes was antagonistic to the association, and heartily seconded them in their aims in this direction. He set forth the advantages of Vancouver as a desirable location for a smelter, and dwelt on the fact that the citizens of the Terminal City were prepared to give reasonable aid towards the establishment of such a plant here.

Mr. A. Williams M.P.P. who followed, admitted that he knew little about mines, his experience in that direction being confined to buying shares in mines at 2½ and 3 cents per share. Nevertheless he joined heartily with Mayor Garden in welcoming the visiting engineers to the city. He attended the meeting for information, and expected to get it. There was no body of men more capable of imparting information to legislative bodies than the mining engineers, and on their shoulders rested the

responsibility of educating the lawmakers. He knew that the association represented the best element of the mining industry in British Columbia. In the past he had occasion to fight legislation detrimental to mining, and as a result had the doors of a legislative committee shut in his face. He was confident that the organization would do every thing in its power to secure needed legislation.

Mr. Robert R. Hedley, of the Hall Mines smelter, was not present, but a paper which he had prepared was read by Mr. B. T. Bell. Before reading the paper Mr. Bell said that all papers read at the present meeting would be more fully discussed at the March meeting of the association to be held in Montreal. The paper was entitled, "The Possibilities for Smelting in British Columbia." The writer declared that lead smelting offered some difficulties for any plant possible with the present production of the lead mines. He was firmly convinced that a blast furnace matting plant would handle the ores of Rossland camp very economically and to great advantage, though the difficulties were not few. As yet they did not know what the Rossland mines were capable of producing. Wild statements had been made on this head, but he believed that a 500-ton plant, erected at such a point, and run so economically that it could make a smelting rate of even \$5 a ton, f.o.b. Rossland, would soon have to increase its capacity, as the figure would leave a profit to the smelter. There were far greater smelting possibilities in the Boundary Creek district. There the variety was greater, and a perfectly self-fluxing ore was obtainable. Once transportation was had, development would be pushed, and plants would follow. Should the coal, on development, prove to be of good coking quality, and in sufficient quantity, a plant with a large capacity would treat ore as cheaply as anywhere on the continent. Even bringing in coke at a cost of \$12 per ton, laid down, he had no hesitation in saying that a 500-ton plant (two furnaces), using steam power, would smelt at a cost not to exceed \$2.75 per ton of ore. This, of course, would produce matte. With East Kootenay he was not familiar, but he believed that the range between Kootenay Lake and Fort Steele would produce ores that, after concentration, would materially assist smelting operations in the country. West, again of Boundary Creek, in the Okanagan country, he had seen evidence of ores in veins of unusual size that would yield handsomely. The coast, too, if reports be true, had its ores of character suitable for smelting, and exceptionally situated for economical treatment.

Mr. Frank C. Loring sent a telegram regretting his inability to be present, but his paper on "Mining Law and its Bearing on the Development of Mines and Mining Districts" was taken up and discussed. Mr. C. F. Monckton summarized two pa-

pers, one by Mr. Loring and another by himself, relating to this question. He objected to Mr. Loring's views in one particular—staking by means of a centre line only—and was of the opinion that corner posts and line stakes should be put up. Mr. Monckton said that he considered the free miners' license an unfair and unnecessary tax; he thought a locator should have from 60 to 90 days to prove the value of a claim, but that assessment work should be done within six months. In his opinion a stop should be put to so-called assessment work. He had known instances where men put in and fired one or two shots and claimed they did \$100 worth of assessment work. Where locators did not comply with the law the claim should be open to re-location.

Mr. McCready thought that there should be some law passed to enable a locator, if there were four or five witnesses present, to send papers to the mining recorder by mail, without going through the formality of seeking a justice of the peace. He thought it an injustice to compel locators to enase up justices of the peace in country districts.

Mr. Waterman thought that claims should be surveyed before they are recorded and that a certain amount of assessment work should also be performed.

Mr. Black advocated the codifying of present mining laws.

He further suggested that the legislature should pay more attention to the mining laws of the country.

Major Vaughan did not think it fair that placer miners should be given too many advantages. He did not want an embargo placed on large capital. The speaker was evidently not in favor of the prospector, as he thought that assessment work should be done before recording the claim, and that the surveyor should vouch for the assessment work. He agreed with Mr. Loring that the present allowance for claims was too large, and that the locator should be compelled to put a notice of his location on both his stakes. The British Columbia mining laws were too open for the good of the country, claims were too large, and prospectors were able to locate any number of them. In conclusion, the speaker said that he was sorry Mr. Carlyle was not present, as he had given the question of mining laws his attention, and was well posted on the needs of the Province in this direction.

Mr. W. J. Gallagher had something to say just then, and he did it in a way that commanded attention. He was well satisfied with the present method of staking out claims. He objected to laziness, particularly when it came to following up a location lead. He looked with suspicion on any measure that would restrain the prospector. The prospector should be encouraged. He starts out in the early

spring; he endures untold hardships. He may spend many months in searching, and late in the autumn he may locate a claim. It would not be justice then to ask him to do assessment work before filing his notice. We have a vast amount of territory for prospectors to go over, and they should be given every liberty. Place no restrictions upon the pioneers that blaze the way—instead render them every encouragement possible. He had known good and honest men who could not write their own names. He would, however, encourage and support any law that would dispense with so-called prospectors. He had noticed that the men who held more than one claim were men backed by capitalists. The sooner mining men and capitalists realize that they have nothing to gain by sending in men to locate claims the better. It was impossible for a bona fide prospector to do his work in less than one year. He had always found the government reasonable, and was confident that if any issue was placed squarely before them they would do what was right. He objected to the Chinese being granted free miner's license, knowing, as he did, that most of the gold taken out by them was sent to China instead of being spent in this country.

The chairman suggested that a committee be appointed to consider mining legislation, and a motion that seven members be appointed on such committee prevailed.

Mr. Bell said the papers handed in at the present meeting would be still further discussed at the March meeting.

The meeting then adjourned until Wednesday.

At 11 o'clock Wednesday morning, the business meeting was held, and the following officers elected: President, W. A. Carlyle; Hon. Vice-Presidents, S. M. Robins and R. C. Campbell-Johnston; Vice-Presidents, W. Blakemore, Crow's Nest Pass; R. R. Hedley, Nelson; F. C. Loring, Rossland; J. B. Hobson, Cariboo. Members of Council, A. H. Holdich, Nelson; M. A. Bucke, Kaslo; W. J. Waterman, A. J. Colquhoun, G. F. Monckton, Vancouver; J. D. Sword, Rossland; W. Perry Leeke, Revelstoke; W. J. R. Cowell, Victoria; Major Vaughan, Vancouver. Secretary, Howard West, A. R. S. M., New Denver. Treasurer, Col. Tracy, Vancouver. Some alterations were made in the constitution, the name being changed to the B. C. Mining Institute. It was decided to appoint a committee to consider the question of finances. The treasurer's report was passed, showing a satisfactory result. The meeting then adjourned, having first agreed to postpone the afternoon session out of respect to ex-Mayor Templeton.

At the evening meeting the attendance was very light, and further than the reading of one or two lengthy papers, which will be duly noted in a

later issue of the *MINING CRITIC*, no business was transacted. Owing to several causes, the attendance at the banquet was very light, but those present enjoyed themselves.

#### AFTERMATH.

Mr. Bell, of Ottawa, was the man who rushed matters at the meeting. Had it not been for his indefatigability, the session would have been rather tame.

Mr. C. N. Black presented two very good resolutions relating to mining laws.

Mr. Gallagher did not waste any words. He was in favor of doing everything possible for the prospector. Everything he said was attentively heard and his opinions were favorably received.

The *MINING CRITIC* acknowledges calls from several of the visiting engineers.

#### THE REPUBLIC.

The returns from a first shipment to the Hall Mines smelter of ore from this mine in the Slovan district are stated to have gone 205 ounces in silver and \$18 in gold to the ton.

#### FERN GOLD MINING AND MILLING CO., LIMITED, LIABILITY.

**DIVIDEND NOTICE.**—Notice is hereby given that a dividend of five per cent. per share on the issued capital stock of the Fern Gold Mining and Milling Company, Limited Liability, has this day been declared by the directors, payable on the 25th inst. to those shareholders whose names appear on the stock register of the company on that date.

C. C. BENNETT,  
Secretary.

Vancouver, B.C., January 14th, 1898.

## Klondike Supply Houses

Will find the "Denver Times" a first-class advertising medium. We shall publish a special Klondike edition at the end of January; and every weekday our guaranteed circulation is 33,000 copies. This is larger than any other Colorado daily. Better get introduced to the Klondikers before they leave their homes. Address—

"THE TIMES," Denver, Colo.

## 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.

#### CANADA'S MINERAL OUTPUT.

The detailed report of the geological survey upon statistics of mines and minerals for the year 1896 has been issued. It gives Canada's total mineral production for the year as \$22,500,000, an increase of 125 per cent. in ten years, the production in 1886 having been \$10,000,000.

The increase of mineral production in the United States for the same decade was 40 per cent. The annual production per caput is \$8 in the United States against \$4.50 in Canada.

In the production of gold British Columbia stands credited with over 64 per cent. and Nova Scotia with over 9 per cent. The Northwest Territories, including the Yukon district, come third with 13 per cent., and Ontario fourth with about 5 per cent., while Quebec contributes much under 1 per cent.

#### THE DEER PARK.

On this Rossland mine the shaft is now down 200 feet and drifting has commenced on the west. Mr. Munkholland, the manager, states that values of \$30 a ton are being obtained, and anticipates that the owning company will make a shipment before spring.

#### EAST KOOTENAY PLACERS.

A big rush of miners lately made for Brewery creek, East Kootenay, where rich specimens of coarse gold had been found by placer workers. The creek is all taken up now by claimholders, who believe it will for a time prove them a Klondike on a small scale, yet wholly devoid of the hardships and perils of the Yukon.

**SAMSON.**

# WATER WHEELS

**CASCADE.**



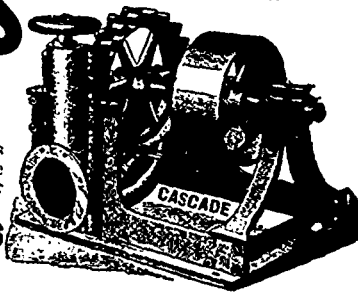
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### AMENDED YUKON REGULATIONS.

Amended regulations governing placer mining in all parts of the Yukon territory were adopted in council on Saturday last. The main points and most important changes are covered by the following summary:

Every miner and employer of miners will require to pay a miner's certificate fee, which will be \$10; in the case of a company it will be \$50 or \$100, according to the amount of the capital stock. A miner's license will confer the right to mine, fish, hunt, and cut timber necessary for mining.

Provision will be made for obtaining miners' certificates at a number of cities and towns, such as Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria.

The general size of the mining claims will be 250 feet. Discoverers may claim 500 feet. Every alternate ten claims shall be reserved by the government of Canada. Subaqueous mining rights are to be granted, subject to Queen's mining leases, to be issued in five-mile sections, with a fee of \$100 per mile per annum, and the usual royalty. The fee for recording and renewing mining claims will be \$15.

Any number of miners, not less than 5 nor more than 100 miles distant from the office of a mining recorder, may appoint a recorder, who will record claims and, within three months, transfer the record and fees to the nearest mining recorder.

A royalty of 10 per cent. on the gold mined shall be levied and collected by the government officials appointed for the purpose, but provision is made for exemption on the annual product of any mining claim up to \$2,500, so that claims which do not produce more than \$2,500 a year will not be liable for royalties.

Provisions are made to prevent speculation in claims, by throwing any claim open to entry which has not been worked for a certain number of days, unless reasonable cause is shown, and by providing that a record shall not be issued for more than one claim to any miner in the same locality.

### DOMINION DEVELOPING COMPANY SELLS OUT.

At a special meeting of the Dominion Developing Company, held at the company's office, Hastings street, Vancouver, on Monday last, a proposition was submitted to the directors to sell all the assets of the company, comprising about \$22,000 cash on hand, an option on a Sidney Inlet copper proposition, and other options, together with the good will and shares for 6,660 five-dollar shares of the British Columbia Gold Trust, Limited, capital stock fully paid and non-assessable. This offer was duly accepted by a majority of the shareholders,

although there was a number of adverse votes recorded. This will net the shareholders of the Dominion Developing Company 37 cents per share for their holdings, payable, as stated above, in Gold Trust stock. The British Columbia Gold Trust, Limited, is recognized as a strong and promising corporation, holding large interests in partially developed properties in Alberni district and on the coast of the mainland, and also in the Slocan and Bridge River camps. They are represented by a strong and influential board of directors, who are practical and experienced mining men, and the stock of the company has been sold in the English markets in large blocks at par. At a recent sale made in Liverpool the stock sold at par value, in fact no stock has been sold under par, and no brokerage allowed. The purchasing company beyond a doubt has great promise with reasonable prospects of the shares being at a premium in the very near future.

### NO TOLL-ROADS.

If, as is highly probable, the feeling of the people of the Slocan City district corresponds with the general sentiment of the mining community of British Columbia, no proposal to build mountain mine or other roads partly by a system of tolls, will find acceptance. They must instead, as a rule, be built and maintained by the Province, or by municipal effort, or by a combination of both authorities, save in rare cases when individual or general contributions in aid may be forthcoming by subscription. Thus a largely attended meeting of Slocan City residents has decided that though a wagon road up Springer Creek is badly needed and will cost \$10,000, this must be built either solely by the Province, or at least half at the cost of the Province, the remainder of the work being done either as a result of local subscriptions or by the volunteer work of the people of the district.

### THE SECOND RELIEF.

The Second Relief, in the promising North Fork district of the Salmon river, is now under bond to probable purchasers, at a price stated to be in the neighborhood of \$30,000. Here twenty men are at work, and 400 tons of high-grade ore are stated to be on the dump.

### THE LEMON CREEK COUNTRY.

The Nelson city council is supporting a petition asking the Provincial Government to build a road from Kootenay lake up Six-Mile pass to Lemon creek, in order thus to open up a most promising silver-gold country, at present but very imperfectly provided with communication.

**OMENICA PLACERS.**

Mr. J. D. Wells, the well known Omenica placer miner says of that country: "Our prospects are every bit as good as those of any other diggings in the country. This season we blasted out a canyon in the old channel of Tom creek for a distance of 140 feet. We sank a shaft in our workings 11 feet and found pay dirt, which continued for eight feet. It ranged from fine gold prospects to \$1 and \$1.25 to the pan. Good results were also obtained from a second shaft. Only 2,000 feet of Tom creek have ever been worked and over \$125,000 in gold have been taken out. A man can go into that country with a season's outfit that will not cost more than \$250. There is plenty of game in the district that can be secured and around Tatla lake the snow only falls to the depth of a foot and a half. The climate is much milder than in Klondike. Of course a man must persevere and not be faint-hearted. We have always gone in by way of the Skeena river, although to get to Manson creek Col. Wright has always gone overland, via Quesnelle. We go up river to Hazelton and then by the wagon road 125 miles in an eastward direction. I believe the Stikine the best route to the Klondike as a man can begin prospecting right away when he starts through. My opinion is that the Klondike is already filled with more people than there are diggings and part of their number should rather go into the Omenica and Cassiar. I believe chances are as good in the Omenica as in the Klondike. Gold has been found to continue very rich, yielding from \$25 to \$50 per day to the man. But what I want particularly to speak about is the great tract—in extent about 300 miles—of unexplored territory between Omenica and Cassiar. This has never been traversed by white men and is inaccessible to individual miners, the Indians of that district being unfriendly. The bleached bones of men who tried to work into this country and starved I have seen in several places. If the Provincial Government will spend some money next year in opening up this district so that it can be prospected it is probable that great benefit will be derived. There is a good field in the Omenica for quartz as well as placer mining, as near the headwaters of the Skeena there are quartz ledges which assay \$120 or more. As for ourselves we took out about \$1,000 this season in prospecting the shafts." Mr. Wells will return north in a few weeks. The best time for a man to go into Omenica is the middle of March.—Ashcroft Mining Journal.

**YMIR MINES.**

On the New Brunswick claim in the Ymir district, assay returns of \$51 have been received from samples. The tunnel is now in 110 feet. Pheno-

menal assay returns are meanwhile reported for exceptionally rich samples taken from the Jubilee mine at Ymir at a depth of 30 feet. The mine is very promising but the MINING CRITIC forbears to quote the big value of the samples assayed, as these tests of small, and doubtless specially selected samples, are apt to mislead the general public. There is too much of this sampling of quite exceptional and small ore specimens done in British Columbia, and as a result mischief is done, as in the case of the Golden Cache, by raising general expectations to an extreme pitch only to cause equal disappointment on failure of realization.

**THE WHITEWATER SOLD.**

Negotiations for the sale of the Whitewater mine, located in the Slocan district, pending for several months, were reported closed last week. The purchasers are the London and British Columbia Gold Fields Company, Limited, the deal being closed by Mr. J. Roderick Robertson, representing that strong English company. The Whitewater group was examined several months ago by S. S. Fowler, engineer for the company, and about three weeks ago by J. D. Kendall, consulting engineer for the corporation. Favorable reports were sent by both gentlemen and an option given to the London and British Gold Fields Company, Limited, till the 3d instant. This was taken up by a cash recent payment on account in Kaslo. The deal is virtually a cash transaction, as deferred payments come in quick succession. The Whitewater group of four claims is located two miles from Whitewater station, on the Kaslo and Slocan railway. The controlling interest of two-thirds was acquired several years ago by J. Eaton, of Spokane, and W. E. Price, of Oakland, Cal. The remaining third was owned by W. E. Mann, of Spokane; Major J. L. Montgomery, of New York, and J. L. Retallack, of Kaslo. The purchasing corporation acquires the interest of Eaton and Price. Mr. Eaton has given personal attention to development of the claim for four years. The mine is now on a paying basis and dividends have been declared regularly for several months. For some time past the property has been shipping in the neighborhood of 200 tons per week, the shipments steadily increasing each month, the ore averaging \$70 a ton. The purchasing corporation will undoubtedly continue vigorous development of the property.

Mr. J. D. Kendall, consulting engineer of the London and British Columbia Gold Fields Syndicate, was in New Denver on Monday and Tuesday last week. Regarding the reported purchase of the Whitewater claims in the Slocan district, Mr. Kendall refused to make any definite statements any more than to say that negotiations had been under way between his company and

the present owners. As to the price set on the property, he was not in a position to make any statements more than to say that the reported \$450,000 was much too large. It is understood that the real consideration is in the neighborhood of \$150,000.

#### LE ROI MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Le Roi Mining Company was held on January 13th, at Spokane. Nearly 465,000 of a total of 500,000 shares were represented. Little was done except to elect officers for the year, as follows: Board of directors—Messrs. W. W. D. Turner, I. N. Peyton, W. M. Ridpath, J. M. Armstrong, W. J. Harris, Valentine Peyton, Frank H. Graves, W. J. C. Wakefield and D. W. Henley. President, Mr. W. W. D. Turner; vice-president, Mr. D. W. Henley; treasurer, Mr. J. M. Armstrong; secretary, Mr. L. F. Williams; manager, Mr. I. N. Peyton. Colonel Peyton becomes manager in place of Senator Turner, while Mr. L. F. Williams becomes secretary in place of Mr. J. M. Armstrong, and Major Armstrong becomes treasurer in place of Colonel Ridpath, who retires from an active part in the management of the property. Mr. Williams retires from the board of directors, and his place thereon is taken by Mr. Valentine Peyton. The talked-of sale of the mine was not discussed formally.

The Le Roi continues to make shipments of about 200 tons per day to the Northport smelter. Recent smelter returns show that the ore is going about 1.54 ounces in gold, four per cent. copper, and three ounces in silver. Its monetary value may be itemized as follows: Gold, 1.54 ounces at \$20, \$30.80; silver, three ounces at 57c., \$1.71; copper, four per cent. (80 pounds) at 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ c., \$8.60; total, \$41.11. Estimating the product of the mine at 200 tons per day, the gross value of the ore raised daily is \$8,222 or \$246,660 per month, which in turn makes the gross yearly product of the mine \$2,959,920. The Iron Mask has two cars loaded ready for the Northport smelter, and has ordered a lot of empties, so that they may be loaded with ore for the smelter. From this it is presumed to be the intention of the Le Roi people to begin doing custom work just as soon as the smelter is blown in.

#### THE NEW MINE INSPECTOR.

Mr. D. J. Macdonald, the recently appointed Provincial Inspector of Metalliferous Mines, is beginning his duties by an official examination of the mines of the Rossland district. It is hoped, as a result, that he will, amongst other things, cause in many necessary instances amongst the mines of British Columbia the adoption of greatly needed measures to ensure the protection of the lives

and limbs of mine workers. It is notorious that some of the British Columbia mines are worked in most hazardous style without due regard for the safety of employes, although it would often be neither difficult nor costly to reduce greatly the risks now run by them.

#### THE FORT STEELE DISTRICT.

Very busy work—largely preliminary—though the North Star is a large shipper, and the Nip and Tuck Hydraulic yields gold and pays dividends, was last year done in the Fort Steele district of Southeast Kootenay. At Fort Steele no fewer than 1,075 men took out miners' licenses, and 1,642 new claims were recorded, the total Provincial mining revenue of the Fort Steele district amounting for the year to \$13,319. East Kootenay has hitherto usually each year received from the Province, in public work and other expenditure, far more than it has contributed, but in 1897 the Provincial receipts from East Kootenay must have been for once considerably in excess of the expenditure.

#### THE VELVET.

Sir Charles Tupper, Canada's veteran promoter of companies, is, on behalf of the New Gold Fields of British Columbia, Ltd., aiding the flotation of a subsidiary company to take over the Velvet mine, Rossland. Mr. J. E. Leckie, the engineer in charge of the mine, reports very favorably of prospects, the drift showing up the ledge well, whilst the paystreak of ore and gangue is stated to be as wide as the shaft.

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Consulting Engineer:

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## Mines and Prospects

### W Thos. Newman

Author "Hidden Mines," etc.; late engineer in charge for the British Canadian Gold and Silver Mines Co., Limited

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#### NEW CAMPS.

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Kamloops, B. C.

**Mining Stock Quotations**

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

COMPANY	CAPITAL	PAR VALUE	Price
<b>TRAIL CREEK.</b>			
B. C. Gold Fields.....	\$2,500,000	\$ 2 00	\$ 11
Beaver.....	750,000	1 00	10
Big Three.....	3,500,000	1 00	10
Bruce.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Butte.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Calcutan Con.....	700,000	1 00	01
California.....	2,500,000	1 00	10
Collie Queen.....	750,000	1 00	5
Centre Star.....	500,000	1 00	10
Colonia.....	1,000,000	1 00	20
Commander.....	500,000	1 00	15
Crown Point.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
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	01
Evening Star.....	1,000,000	1 00	7
Georgia.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Gertrude.....	500,000	1 00	10
Golden Drip.....	500,000	1 00	10
Great Western.....	1,000,000	1 00	11
Hattie Brown.....	1,000,000	1 00	1
High Ore.....	500,000	1 00	4
Imperial.....	1,000,000	1 00	05
Independent.....	1,000,000	1 00	06
Iron Horse.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Iron Mask.....	500,000	1 00	25
I. S.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Jose.....	700,000	1 00	32
Kumbi.....	500,000	1 00	65
Kolont-London.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Le Roi.....	500,000	5 00	7 25
Lily Day.....	1,000,000	1 00	18
Mayflower.....	1,000,000	1 00	8
Monte.....	750,000	1 00	19
Monte Cristo.....	1,000,000	1 00	20
Morning Star.....	1,000,000	1 00	07
Nest Egg.....	500,000	1 00	3
Northern Belle.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
O. K.....	1,000,000	1 00	4
Palo Alto.....	1,000,000	1 00	5
Phonix.....	500,000	1 00	8
Portman.....	700,000	1 00	11
Red Mountain View.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Roseland, Red Mt'n.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
St. Elmo.....	1,000,000	1 00	4
St. Paul.....	1,000,000	1 00	8
Silverline.....	500,000	1 00	4
Southern C. & W. C.....	500,000	1 00	29
Virginia.....	500,000	1 00	15
War Eagle Con.....	2,000,000	1 00	10
West Le Roi.....	500,000	1 00	17
White Bear.....	2,000,000	1 00	8
<b>AINSWORTH, NELSON &amp; SLOCAN</b>			
American Boy.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Fern Gold.....	2,000,000	25	59
Rev of Slocan.....	3,000,000	25	25
Arlington.....	1,000,000	1 00	12
Arzo.....	100,000	10	10
Athabasca.....	1,000,000	1 00	25
Black Hills.....	100,000	10	10
Buffalo of Slocan.....	150,000	15	25
Condholder.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Alamo.....	500,000	1 00	10
Canadian M. M. and S. Co.....	2,000,000	1 00	07
Columbia-Cariboo.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Cumberland.....	700,000	10 00	10
Dandanelles.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Delle.....	750,000	1 00	12
Eldon.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Fisc.....	1,000,000	1 00	05
Elen.....	1,000,000	1 00	07
Elkhorn.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Eschequer.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Goodenough.....	800,000	1 00	25
Gilson.....	650,000	1 00	17
Grey Eagle.....	750,000	1 00	10
Hall Mines.....	300,000	21	25
Hler.....	1,000,000	1 00	12
London.....	150,000	15	25
Minnesota.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Nelson-Portman.....	250,000	25	25
Northern Light.....	250,000	1 00	10
Noble Five Con.....	1,200,000	1 00	11
Ottawa and Ivanhoe.....	1,000,000	1 00	12
Placida Consolidated.....	1,000,000	1 00	05
Rambler Con.....	1 000,000	1 00	28
Reo.....	1 000,000	1 00	10
Reo.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Sloan Reciprocity.....	1,000,000	1 00	05
Sloan Star.....	500,000	1 00	20
Santa Marie.....	1,000,000	1 00	05
Sheriff.....	1,000,000	1 00	21
Silver Band.....	250,000	25	12
Sloan Queen.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Star.....	1,000,000	1 00	05
St. Revere.....	1,000,000	1 00	01
Sunshine.....	500,000	10 00	15
Two Friends.....	250,000	20	25
Washington.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Wonderful.....	1,000,000	1 00	04

COMPANY	CAPITAL	PAR VALUE	Price
<b>LARDEAU</b>			
Consolidated Sable Creek Mining Co.	\$1,500,000	\$ 1 00	\$ 100
<b>TEXADA ISLAND</b>			
Texada Proprietary.....	50,000	25	25
Van Anda.....	5,000,000	1 00	1
Victoria-Texada.....	150,000	25	25
Texada Kirk Lake.....	500,000	1 00	1 00
Raven.....	1, 000,000	1 00	10
Gold Bar.....	100,000	10	
<b>VANCOUVER ISLAND</b>			
Alberni Mountain Rose.....	250,000	1 00	5 1/2
Ambrozine.....	500,000	1 00	1 00
Consolidated Alberni.....	5 000,000	1 00	8
Mineral Creek.....	500,000	1 00	05 1/2
Mineral Hill.....	750,000	1 00	05
Quadra.....	500,000	1 00	10
<b>CARIBOO</b>			
Cariboo Gold Fields, Ltd.....	2100,000		
Cariboo Hydraulic.....	200,000	5 00	7 00
Horseshoe Hydraulic.....	200,000		
Horseshoe Gold Mining Co.....	1,000,000	10 00	10 00
Cariboo M. & D. Co.....	500,000	1 00	25
Golden River Guesnelle.....	250,000	21	2 50
Victoria Hydraulic.....	300,000	1 00	85
<b>LILLOOET DISTRICT</b>			
Alpha Bell.....	500,000	1 00	40
Domitron Developing.....	25,500	25	24
Excelsior.....	500,000	1 00	50
Golden Cache.....	500,000	1 00	50
Lillooet Gold Reefs.....	200,000	25	25
Cayoosh Creek Mines.....	500,000	1 00	50
<b>FAIRVIEW CAMP</b>			
Tin Horn.....	200,000	25	50
Winches of.....	200,000	25	25
<b>BOUNDARY</b>			
Old Ironides.....	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
<b>CAMP MCKINNEY</b>			
Cariboo.....	800,000	1 00	51

Dividends paid to date are as follows: Le Roi, \$571,000; War Eagle (Old Company), \$257,500; Rambler-Cariboo, \$40,000; Reo, \$250,000; Sloan Star, \$250,000; Cariboo, \$180,000; Domitron Developing, \$18,178. 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.....	\$100,000	Goodenough.....	25,000
Idaho.....	200,000	Noble Five.....	50,000
Portman.....	50,000	Northern Belle.....	20,000
Ruth.....	150,000	Antoine.....	10,000
Whitewater.....	91,400	Surprise.....	20,000
Washington.....	20,000	Monitor.....	15,000
Slocan Riv.....	25,000	Last Chance.....	50,000

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## THE GOLDEN CACHE COMPANY.

## Annual Meeting.

The second annual ordinary meeting of the Golden Cache Mines Company, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Board of Trade rooms, Vancouver. Mr. J. M. McKinnon, the president, was in the chair, and the other directors present were Messrs William Skene, R. Hamilton, and John Macquillan. There was a large attendance of stockholders.

The secretary, Mr. Alexander Grant, read the notice convening the meeting, and also the minutes of the last general meeting.

At this point a somewhat heated discussion took place in reference to the trust stock in the Golden Cache, held by Dr. Carroll. Mr. Macquillan and the secretary took part, but discussion of the matter was in the end, on the suggestion of Mr. William Skene, ruled out of order by the chairman. The minutes of the previous meeting were then adopted, after which the secretary read the report for the past year, as follows:

There have been no special or general meetings of the shareholders during the year. Mr. William Skene was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors, caused by the resignation on the 12th of October, of Mr. W. B. Robertson. Mr. William Skene was subsequently elected Vice-President, in place of Mr. John Macquillan, who resigned as Vice-President. The Board held 18 meetings during this term of office. The financial condition of the Company is fully shown in the balance sheet and accompanying statement of expenditure.

The result of the first clean-up of the stamp mill has not been up to the expectations of the directors. During the 30 days' run there were sent from the new workings of the mine, and crushed in the mill, 755 tons of ore. Five tons of this ore were of a very high grade, yielding \$211.01 to the ton. The whole number of tons crushed gave an average of \$4.45 per ton, exclusive of concentrates, which, on account of the vanners being frozen, were not saved.

From this showing it is evident that a very large proportion of the ore we are at present working in is of a very much lower grade than had been anticipated, and will not pay to run through a small mill, such as we have, or any plant operated by steam power. Further development is necessary to prove that the ore body warrants the installation of the additional machinery and plant proposed by the Board, viz.: First to utilise the valuable water power of Cayoosh Creek already secured by the Company; second, to increase the capacity of the stamp mill; third, for labor saving in mining and milling of the most approved type; fourth, for the most approved process of treating and winning all the gold from the ore, combined with economy in operation.

In accordance with the announcement made by the President at the last general meeting, Mr. J. A. Macfarlane, F. C. S., of this city, was engaged as Mine Superintendent, and entered on his duties on the 1st of March, 1897. The June following, the Board decided to make a change in the mine management, and in July Mr. Macfarlane gave place to our present superintendent, Mr. George T. Rives, a gentleman of the highest standing as a mine and quartz mill superintendent, as well as mining engineer.

After tenders had been received, the contract for erect-

ing a suitable building for a 20-stamp quartz mill, and the installation therein of the modern first-class 10-stamp gold quartz mill (previously purchased) was entered into with the William Hamilton Manufacturing Company, Limited, of Peterboro, Ont. In October last a trial of the mill was made in the presence of Directors Mackinnon, Robertson, Hamilton and Munzie, and several shareholders. The mill worked very satisfactorily, but the tramway conveying the ore from the mine to the mill, although finished according to plans and specifications, had to be re-arranged at the lower terminal. This occupied till November 3rd. The tramway now works satisfactorily.

Your directors are pleased to report that the lawsuit brought by the trustee, Dr. J. T. Carroll, has been decided by the supreme court of British Columbia in favor of the company. The Dominion Development and Mining Company, through their solicitors, Messrs. Cowan & Shaw, have written a letter, stating that they intend to appeal from the decision of the supreme court, and "to bring an action to have the trust of Dr. Carroll declared at an end and the shares distributed amongst the parties entitled." This threat is not quite consistent with the position assumed by the Dominion Development Company in the action brought by Dr. Carroll. Your directors will adopt all lawful means of preserving this valuable asset for the benefit of the shareholders.

The dispute regarding the lease of the mill site is still unsettled, but your directors have assurances that a favorable issue may be anticipated.

There remain unsold 50,000 of the 100,000 shares placed in trust with Dr. J. T. Carroll for the purposes of this Company, in terms of resolution of July 23rd, 1896 which reads as follows: "The balance, viz., 100,000 fully paid up and non-assessable shares, to be handed to J. T. Carroll, as Trustee, as between the members of the Golden Eagle Syndicate and this Company. The Trustee to apply the proceeds of the sale of such shares as may be sold to the credit of the Company, as they may see fit. And the said Trustee shall receive his instructions regarding the sale of said shares only from the Board of Directors of this Company."

Your Directors are pleased to report that since the books were closed, applications have been received for 5,500 shares at par.

The expenditure of funds provided by the sale of shares, from the incorporation of the Company to January 10th, 1898, was as follows: Wages, mining, \$19,929.65; mining supplies, \$3,487.35; assaying, \$484.44; surveying, \$1,215.70; trail, \$311.25; Cayoosh Creek road, \$2,000; buildings, bunk-house and cook-house, \$496.50; buildings, sawmill, \$1,857.45; mill site, \$47.80; buildings, stamp mill, \$6,940.08; plant and machinery, stamp mill, \$9,727.45; engine and boiler, \$1,767.39; wages, milling, \$1,992.62; mill supplies, \$1,183.21; engine supplies \$49.10; tramway, \$10,572.09; ore bins, \$326; buildings, manager's house, \$521; furnishing manager's house, \$83.67; water power, \$737; travelling expenses, \$1,506.40; horse feed, \$370.50; office expenses and management (Vancouver and Lillooet), \$3,658.60; fire insurance, \$126.75; accident insurance, \$59.20; law costs (including costs of suit brought by Dr. J. T. Carroll, as Trustee, against the Company), \$2,383.61; commission, \$2,393.50. This makes a total of \$74,169.21, from which have to be deducted \$4,936.92 interest and discount and bullion account, making in all, \$69,232.29 as the real total expenditure.

The balance sheet places the liabilities at \$509,909.35, and the assets at the same amount. There are legal expenses to the amount of \$1,826 unpaid and the profit realized on the sale of the Moonlight fractional claim is put down as \$4,482.50. The contingent assets are 50,000 shares held under the agreement between the Company and the

Golden Eagle Syndicate. The cost of acquiring five claims from the syndicate was \$436,828, and the cost of developing the Golden Eagle claim and other claims swelled that amount to \$506,742. The supplies on hand are of the value of \$1,357, and the balance in the Bank of British North America and in the Secretary's hands is \$360.

The financial statement was the theme of some discussion, mainly on the part of Mr. Masquidan.

The motion for the adoption of the report was then carried.

Mr. Wm. Skene afterwards spoke at considerable length, as representing controlling interests in the company, held by Mr. Oldroyd, M. P., and other capitalists. He took a very favorable view of the company's prospects—thus evidencing a marked recent change of mind on the subject—and eulogized the general management of the undertaking.

Directors for the year were, ere the adjournment of the meeting, appointed in the persons of Messrs. J. M. Mackinnon, Wm. Skene, R. Hamilton, and Wm. Munsie.

#### LUCK IN GOLD MINING.

The newspaper scribbler, in want of fresh copy, has a habit of telling tales of blind luck and happy incident. A drunken fool falls down on the hillside and wakes from his turbid dream to find himself resting against a ledge of white quartz gleaming with the yellow metal; or an idle shepherd picks up a stone to throw at a stray sheep, and, realizing its unusual weight, shatters it against a boulder to find it an open sesame to the caverns of Aladdin.

Don't believe it! The blind goddess Fortune directs the miner's destiny less frequently than the brotherhood of pick, energy and observation. *There is as much luck in mining as in all things human, but hardly more; there is as much room for intelligent design and careful foresight as in any other business, and probably more.*

Illustrations borrowed from fact will be of service. When Thomas Kruse, at Marysville, Montana, in the United States, was opening up the mine which made him a millionaire, there came a story of an old man driving a tunnel into a mountain at a place where he would find macadam for the road, but no ore for the mill. When the crosscut intercepted a wide vein of rich stuff, men pointed to the incident as another evidence of the hit or miss character of ordinary mining. The real facts were far otherwise.

"Old Tommy Kruse," as he is known all over Montana, was a very shrewd and sensible prospector. He had found the outcrop of a promising lode on the mountain side and had realized that, while one man alone cannot sink a shaft a hundred feet deep, he can, with his own unaided energy drive a tunnel for several hundred feet. The tunnel cut the vein, whose position he had previously determined. So was begun the exploitation of a mine which has become famous in mining annals as the Drumlummon. It now has about twelve miles

of workings, out of which has come ore of a value approximating \$14,000,000.

The Enterprise mine at Rico, in Colorado, was discovered by Mr. David Swickhimer. Picturesque stories are told of the timely aid of a lottery winning and of the haphazard penetration into a big ore body. The truth is quite as romantic. Never were correct reasoning and indomitable pluck more fittingly rewarded.

Swickhimer had been working for wages in the ground of the Swansea Mining Company, on Newman Hill. He had learned the course of the veins which were being there successfully worked, and this knowledge was particularly valuable, because the true rock—sandstone and limestone—is, in this locality, overlain by several hundred feet of boulders and gravel of lacustrine origin. The veins do not reach the surface of today, and hence have no cropping to indicate their position.

Swickhimer left the Swansea mine and located a claim, the Enterprise, to the north. He began the sinking of a shaft, only to find that the porousness of boulders caused a flow of water, which hindered progress and made the work very expensive. A pump was at length purchased and it replaced the bucket and windlass.

But in the meantime the Swansea Company was pushing its levels ahead and would soon penetrate into Swickhimer's claim. Unless he found ore in his location it would, by the terms of the absurd American mining law, be invalid. The sinking of the shaft was hurried with a tireless energy which surmounted all sorts of bad luck. Eventually ore was struck, and the plucky adventurer won his fortune. Since then the Enterprise mine has produced \$3,500,000 out of its eight miles of underground workings.—T. Richard in Cassier's Magazine.

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CANADA.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.

To our faithful the Members elected to serve in the Legislative Assembly of Our Province of British Columbia at our City of Victoria—Greeting.

A PROCLAMATION

A. G. Smith, Deputy Attorney-General.

WHEREAS, We are desirous and resolved, as soon as may be, to meet Our people of Our Province of British Columbia, and to have their advice in Our Legislature;

NOW KNOW YE, that for divers causes and considerations, and taking into consideration the ease and convenience of Our loving subjects, We have thought fit by and with the advice of Our Executive Council of the Province of British Columbia to hereby convoke, and by these presents enjoin you, and each of you, that on Thursday, the tenth day of the month of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, you meet Us in Our said Legislature of Parliament of Our said Province, at Our City of Victoria, FOR THE DISPATCH OF BUSINESS, to treat, do, act, and conclude upon those things which in Our Legislature of the Province of British Columbia, by the Common Council of Our said Province may by the favor of God, be ordained.

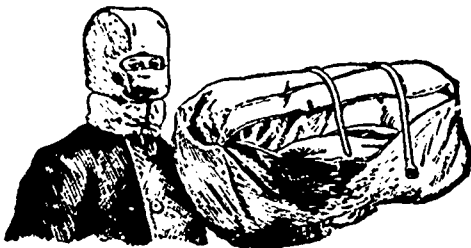
In Testimony Whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of the said Province to be hereunto affixed: Witness, the Honorable Thomas R. McInnes, Lieutenant-Governor of Our said Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our said Province, this thirtieth day of December, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and in the sixty-first year of Our Reign.

By Command.

JAMES BAKER,

38-41

Provincial Secretary.



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36-31



## Notice.

Owners of Placer Claims are invited to send a few ounces of the black or grey sand obtained in washing the gravel for gold, to the Provincial Mineralogist, Bureau of Mines, Victoria, stating the name of the creek from which the sand is taken, and its locality.

It is believed that PLATINUM, and perhaps IRIDIUM, are frequently passed over and lost by the prospector, as they have much the appearance of iron in the sand. These minerals are as valuable as gold, the latter more so, and if the placer claim owners will send the black or grey sand as aforesaid it will be assayed and the results given to the owner.

36-30

JAMES BAKER,  
Minister of Mines.

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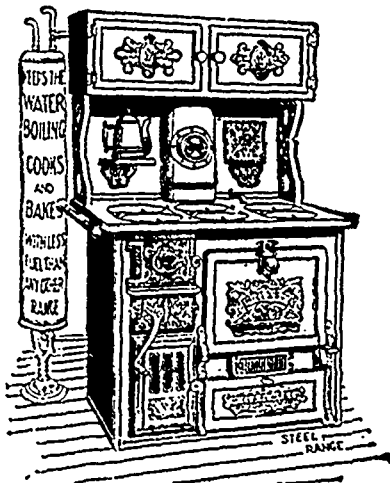
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Tickets sold and Baggage checked to all U.S. Points  
Leave Kaslo for Nelson and way points, daily except Sundays, 5:45 a. m.  
Arrive Northport 12:15 p.m.; Rossland, 3:40 p.m.; Spokane, 6 p.m.  
Leave Nelson for Kaslo and way points, daily except Sunday, 5:30 p.m.  
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 & Slocan Railway

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Trains Run on Pacific Standard Time.

Going west	Daily	Going east
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" 8:35 "	South Fork	" 3:15 "
" 9:35 "	Sproule's	" 2:15 "
" 9:51 "	Whitewater	" 2:00 "
" 10:03 "	Bear Lake	" 1:48 "
" 10:18 "	Metwigan	" 1:33 "
" 10:38 "	Junction	" 1:12 "
Ar 10:50	Sandon	Lv 1:00 "

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

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

### WESTBOUND.

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