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British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

British, Columbia Mining Critic.

18SUED WEEKLY.

Devoted to the interests of Mining and the Protection of Investors.

SATURDAY, NOV. 6, 1897.

Letters from practical men on topics connected with mining, mining machinery, mining laws, and matters relating to the mineralogical development of Canada, are always welcome.

Manufacturers and dealers in appliances used in and about mines are invited to send illustrations and descriptions of new articles.

Views and descriptions of mines and mining locations solicited.

Subscription. Two hollars a year, payable in advance. Remittances should be made by Express, Postal Order or Bank Draft, payable to the "British Columbia Mining Critic."

Advertising rates quoted on application.

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FRANK S. TAGGART, MANAGING EDITOR.

Business and Editorial Offices:

319 Camble Street, Vancouver, E. C., P.O. Box 125.

THEY "MEAN BUSINESS."

There seems to be no doubt that, as already widely noted, leading men of the C. P. R. directorate intend actively to promote the smelting industry at a point or points on the Koolenay branch of their great transcontinental system. Mr. J. H. Sussman is now ir. West Kootenay, investigating closely for this purpose local and general conditions, as the advisory mining expert of the C. P. R. capitalists. He is naturally and properly not-committal as to possible points of location, but amongst other places the claims of Nelson, Slocan Crossing and Robson are not being overlooked in his survey of possibilities. The proposed smelting industry will be run in the closest and friendliest association with the great railroad, though probably not, as an integral part of its transport system. The smelter or smelters for there may even be two-will run on supplies of customs ores, as the men of the C. P. R. do not intend to go into mining. They, however, rightly telieve, that smelting is, when effectively conducted in such a precious metal country as West Kootenay, not only very profitable per se, but certain also to add abundantly to the freight business and earnings of their great railroad.

Evidently British investors are now beginning to realise the big future before the C. P. R., in connection with the grain of the Prairies and the gold, silver, copper, Iron, lead, coal, lumber and fish of British Columbia, for the value of the Company's stock is steadily rising and may, likely enough, at an early period reach par after falling no long time since, under temporary pressure of adverse circumstances, to points in the "forties,"

The Company has a very big opportunity before it, and we hope that those who control it will not forget their indebtedness to B. C., as also to some of the humbler aides in their service and by adopting a broad and liberal policy, not merely add to the Company's none too large present stock of popularity, but also to its earnings. There is good money and will be better in improved local facilities and cheapened fares, as regards increasingly nopulous districts of British Columbla. The New Denver "Ledge" by the bye complains that "the coast papers are full of compliments to the C. P. R., "their natrons." The "Ledge" is in this respect unjust to some at least amongst us, who cannot rightly be accused of flattery to the C. P. R. or indulging in a macsycophant policy of "bowing" towards the directors of the great railroad. But we are very reluctantly compelled to recognise that whilst others here mean charter mongering, the C. P. R. means and does business, other than selling to the highest bidder Provincial and other charter rights. We on the Coast have -many of us-been fairly nauseated by platform clap-trap cries of "railroads for the people" ending in charter mongering deals with C. P. R. or other contractors. Better far if the great railroad has ultimately to gain statutory concessions of value, that it should acquire them at first hand and not at profit values, passed into the hands of charter broking intermediaries, posing as advocates of people's railroad ownership. The latter is good under honest and capable conditions of business management, divorced from politics, but it is clear as the day that Canada's politicians, whatever they say, have no intent to extend the country's limited state ownership of railways and it is equally clear that the Dominion electorates as a rule know little of and that unfavorable, and care less at present for such a system. As a Coast paper we frankly face this fact and admit that as between Mr. Heinze and Sir Wm. Van Horne we have no reason to prefer the former as a railroad magnate. The latter has the greater effective capacity, and is, therefore, likely to do more for B. C. in general and this Coast in particular than the former.

THE GALENA MINES PIASCO.

Mr. P. Comiskey is a gentleman, bearing a name tather suggestive of the commiscration called for by the trying position, in which he was recently placed, as Chairman of a general meeting in London of the shareholders of the Vancouver and British Columbia General Exploration Company, Limited. He then had, unlike Canning's "Needy knife-grinder," quite a "story to tell, sirs," and he told it in just as querulous a tone as the peripatetic razor sharpener of the classic satire. It mostly concerned the Galena Farm, which was to have been an immensely profitable galena mine, as assuredly it needed to be, to justify even in part the conditions of over-capitalisation and extortionate underwriting and general promoting profit, under which the concern first saw the light. But instead of proving very profitable, the Galena Farm, so says poor Mr. Cemiskey, isn't developing satisfactorily at all. The lode is, we gather from his faltering words, somehow broken or twisted, and a deuce and all of a lot of zine is found to be intermingled with the galena, which is by no means so rich as it at first seemed or was stated to be in a prospectus chekeful of glazing assurances and exaggerations into veritable mountains of modest molehills of satisfactory There is now no first indications. doubt, says Mr. Comiskey, and in this we quite agree with him, that reports were in the first instance much exaggerated in regard to the amount of ere in sight, though for what purpose he in his simplicity could not say. Then, too, those glowing reports said nothing of the presence of a big body of zinc, rendering the ore most difficult and costly to treat. But there was, he said, hope still. Somebody knew-so he was told-of a new secret process for treating such zinc-bearing galena ores with equal efficiency and cheapness and there was a gentleman in the room who thought he could do something effective with the Galena Farm ore. And if the deposit proved rich enough even the zinc difficulty would not be insuperable.

Meanwhile development work was proceeding and better results might yet accrue and the Company had, moreover, amongst its outlying properties yet another claim-the Tenderfoot - suggestive appellation - of which much was expected. And if the Company had "gore wrong" dont let its shareholders loane the directors, for had they not, v god Mr. Comiskey, followed the opinions of many as to the value of the Greena Farm property and had not even Mr Carlyle, the Provincial Mineralogy spoken some words of favor as to the mine.

It is true, that the tar as the "Mining Critic" is aw. no trustworthy expert advised that ... big attempted capitalisation of the undertaking was justified by the min resources, but as to this Mr. Comise of and his colleagues had naturally enthing to say. The result of the day's proceedings was naturally depression all round, a feeling of which a shareh ider, named most appropriately Grieve, voiced plaintively-certainly more in sorrow than in anger. He thought Mr. Comiskey's statement "bald." As to which the "Mining Critic" thoroughly agrees with Mr. Grieve and trusts that there may be few-very few-London flotations of B. C. mining enterprises like unto that of the Galena Farm. 'Twas about as bad as a roor sample of a London Klondyke company. Yet with a difference, for as a rul cappily for the investing public, the rest sam-Lies of Klondyke company a failed to float, and didn't even i - re to be early regarded as likely condicts.

VANCOUVER'S SMELTER CONTRO. VERSY.

Mr. Philip Fewster has written a reply, quoted in another column, to our observations of last week concerning his attempted censure of the Vancouver ore smelter and : Inery project. He is again very inaccurate, for he writes about the City's "inci...ing unlimited responsibilities for whatever debts the smelter management may contract." Mr. Fewster seems to be quite unaware that no liability can attach to the City beyond the amount of the stock taken by it and the money value thereof, in the case of a limited liability company, organised as the Vancouver concern will be, as an English joint stock association. The City will, after giving full cash value to. stock taken, incur no further liability.

Mr. Fewster urges also that the City will have no share in the smelter's management, though it is quite possible for the City Council to be empowed-as it should be-under the articles of association of the Company to pominate a director of the concern and thus take a full pro rata share in its |

management, in return for contributing \$65,000 of a total capital, of about \$1,240,000 or .C250,000 sterling. Mr. Fewster's further suggestion that the City should "lean land" to the smelter company is of cou o utterly impraeticable, for no body o directors would borrow a site for expensive works, though they might, were their capital rather limited, buy a site and after building thereon, mortgage both site and smelter. This is, perhaps, what Mr. Fewster means by his quaint notion that the City should "loan a site." But the City municipality, as he ought to know, owns no suitable site for a smelter. Indeed no suitable land is scemingly to be found within Vancouver's City limits.

A would-be London promoter of a. Klondyke exploration company which failed to float, is now in still worse trouble, accused of obtaining a bicycle and a small sum of money by false pretenses and likely to be charged also as it would appear, with desertion from the British army. The Klondyke craze has produced on the Pacitic Coast some of the loudest lying on record and in London brought forth company promoters who could, had they lived, have given points at their own game, to South Sea bubble blow-

Experts representing leading contalists of the Rothschild type, are apt to take very different views of Klondyke possibilities from those of blatherskite boom correspondents of the Joaquin Miller type. Thus Mr. A. Bratnober, well known in connection with the Rothschilds, says that in 1898 \$5,000,000 will probably be got out of the Yukon -a modest but in all probability accurate estimate of results. Yet in face of this 50,000 to 100,000 deluded goldseekers nean in Spring to make for the Yukon. If they do this-as seems certain-there will be an infinity of suffering, though Mr. Bratnober thinks that of the host of would-be prospectors, not one in ten will get in. As to Yukon mining by expensive machinery, Mr. Bratnober corroborates the view of well-informed men that hydraulicing will be found impossible in the frozen land of the Yukon and he also inclines to a belief that the ical available gold wealth will be found only in the placers. Ine quartz deposits will, he thinks, he found excessively hard to reach and by reason of low grade of deposits not as a rule profitable to work. As for Dawson City Mr. Bratnober deems it certain to become and remain a nest for typhoid fever germs. Yet one sapient English newspaper opines that it may well be that through the early and rapid growth of wealth and population in the Yukon, the capital of the Territories may in a year or two be removed from Regina to some town of the Klondyke. The ritories are in truth about as likely to find their future capital in Hades.

FORT STEELE INCORPORATION.

The Fort Steele Board of Trade has requested Attorney-General Eberts to introduce a Bill to incorporate Fort Steele as a city early next year, this is done, there will be incorporated the first municipality in East Kootenay, a region in which long since, the district around Donald and Golden might well have enjoyed at least local self-government under a rural municipality. But legal obstacles in connection with property owning, pre-vented this at Donald and Golden people seemed little inclined to incorporate. many preferring to be "spoon fed" by the Province. Fort Stecle now shows the way to greater local independence.

AT ALBERNI.

Here on the Alberni-Consolidated prospects are stated to have improved greatly, a new lead having been struck and followed 25 feet as yet. Twelve men are engaged at work. Meanwhile the ores of the Smith camp are being investigated and developed under the advice of an English expert and a French mining agent is about Alberni and elsewhere on the west coast of Vancouver Island examining properties in the interests of possible Eastern Canadian investors. Meanwhile it is stated that a Tacoma syndicate has made an offer of \$40,000 for the Black Imes claim. From all which it would appear, that though plogress is not startlingly rapid, there is development in and about Alberni.

MR. FEWSTER'S LETTER.

Mr. P. Fewster has written to the Vancouver "World" as follows on this subject:

Editor World: The Mining Critic of Saturday last comments on my letter of the 2drd ult., in the World. It is from courtesy that I a reply thereto do make; which example was rightly set by Critic, and pity 'tis, his words are not in unison. The faulty calculation is heartily forgiven. Figures correctly set tell their own truthful tale. The city is agreeing to hand over \$65,-000 to the Smelter Company, becomes a partner to that extent in the cash capital of the smelter company, be-sides incurring unlimited responsibil-ity in whatever debts they may incur. Whether the \$65,000 becomes a total less or not, the city is also responsible for 4 per cent interest on it. The city is in the position of taking unlimited responsibility, without possessing any power of restraint on the company's expenditure. No mercantile individual would take a position, in common with other men, and in favor of as many smelters as the trade requires, but I object to the city taking shares in any such company, the unrestraint management of which is vested in other hands. If this city owns suitable land within its limits, it might be wise to loan that land to the Smelter Company for a certain term of years, free of charge or tax.

PHILIP FEWSTER.

Vancouver, Nov. 1st, 1897.

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PLATINUM.

SOURCES OF SUPPLY, IDENTIFI-CATION AND SEPARATION OF THE ORE. FACTS OF INTEREST TO PROS PECTORS AND MINERS.

> Compiled by BAKER & COMPANY. Platinum Refiners,

Newark, N. J., U. S. A.
The constantly increasing demand for platinum in the arts and manufactures of the world and the present limited sources of supply, have in recent years greatly enhanced the price of the metal. Because of the peculiar and valuable quantities of platinum it is believed that the consumption of the metal would be greatly increased it the supply was sufficient to materially lower the cost.

This circular is issued for the purpose of calling the attention of prospectors and miners to the increasing demand for the metal, even at present prices, and to the wide distribution of the ore, with the hope that by their aid new and rich deposits of the

same may be located.

Contrary to popular impression, platinum and associated metals are widely distributed, although they have thus far been found in paying quantitles in but few locations. This condition is perhaps largely due to th. the limited acquaintance of prospectors and miners with the means of identifying platinum ore and of its economic separation. Up to the present time the platinum of commerce has been obtained entirely from alluvial deposits, although it has been reported in dmited quantities in situ. About eighty per cent, of the present supply is derived from the alluvial deposits of the Ural Mountains, but there are iew, if any, of the gold-bearing gravel heds of the world that have failed to yield platinum, and it is more than likely that large quantities of platinum ore have been thrown away with the black sand washings from gold placer deposits. The distribution of the ore may in fact be regarded as practically coexistent with gold placer deposits, as is evidenced by the following list of localities, excepting Russia, tha' have yielded the ore in varying quantities. In California in nearly, if not all of the gold-bearing gravel and sands; in Oregon, Georgia. North Carolina, Alaska on the Yukon River, Canada, British Columbia, Mexico, Colombia and Brazil, South America, and Australia.

The genesis of native platinum is not well understood. In two cases it has been reported as found in quartz veins, but these reports have never Leen verified, and the theory of deposition from solution based upon them is rendered extremely doubtful, by the known insolubility of the metal. The undoubted occurrences of platinum in situ are in Russia, Brazil, New South Wales. Canada and Colombia.

Platinum ore is usually found in the form of rounded or flattened grains or occasionally in irregular 'sam: lump: of the size of peas; large nuggets are very rare—the largest as yet found weighing twenty-one pounds.

The ore has a metalic lustre and is distinguished by its steel grey color, shining light gray streak when rubbed on a hard white surface, high specific gravity (16 to 19) infusibility in the hottest blast furnaces and insolubility

in any single acid. It is not affected by borax or salt of phosphorus before the blowpipe, except in the finely divided state, when reactions for iron and copper may be obtained. . It is soluble only in hot nitro-hydrachloric acid (Aqua Regia).

Platinum ore is a countex body consisting of the meta 'a combination with varying proportions of the other members of the platinum group, such as Iridium, rhodium, palladium, ruthcolum and osmium, together with from tour to twenty per cent, of iron. In alluvial deposits the ore is generally associated with iridosmine (a native alloy of iridium and osmium posses-sing a degree of hardness superior to that of hard-tempered steel) magnetic iron sand, chromite, garnet, epidote and often with zircon, serpentine, ilmenite, peridot, quartz, diamond and chrysolite. Russia is the only country, excepting possibly New South Wales, that at the present time mines platinum ore for itse" alone.

In the former country the platinumbearing sand is found at depths of be-tween six and forty feet, the "pay streak," averaging less than a foot in cepth, resting directly on serpentine ped-rock. In New South Wales the pay streak" is from sixty to one hunhed-rock. dred and fifty feet wide and under-lies a loam bed sixty to seventy feet deep, the ore occurring in the crevices of the bed-rack and in the gravel rest-

ing thereon.

The method generally adopted for extracting the ore is to pass the sand and gravel with water through puddling machines or revolving conical screens: the platinum and fine sand pass through into chice boxes bereath, while the coarser materials are discharged at one side. The contents of the sluice boxes are washed in the The contents usual manner, and when gold is present in paying quantities it is removed by amalgamation with mercury, the platinum remaining behind. Experience shows that it is seldom profitable to work mines yielding less than three grams of platinum ore to the ton of gravel. The average yield of the richest Russian mines is about six grams per ton.

The refining of crude platinum is a difficult operation to perform and requires apparatus and experience not

generally available.

As we are extensive buyers and refiners of platinum and manufacturers of the metal in all forms, we are most anxious to encourage the search for and the development of new sources of

supply of the ore.

We have the best facilities for the correct assaying and refining of platinum ore and are purchasers at the highest market prices of the crude ore ir either small or lage quantities. We shall be pleased, therefore, to give additional and detailed information bearing upon this subject to such persons as are practically interested in this matter and to make tests for platinum, free of charge, on samples delivered F. O. B. at our works.

SPECIAL OFFER TO SUB RIBRS.

Read Advertisement on page of

THE GREAT WESTERN, OF SLOCAN.

Returns from the twelith car of ore lately shipped from the Great Western. of Slocan, owned by the Two Friends Company, of Vancouver, have been received. This car consisted of concentrates, and weighed 16 tors, 1,01f Ibs. It went 161.5 ounces of saver and 57.1 per cent, lead to the ton, the net value being \$922.13, while duty amounting to \$282.73 was also paid.

The thirteenth car is now on the

THE SLOCAN STAR.

-- ·· -

Mr. Bruce White, one of the principal owner, of the Slocan Star, in an Interview at Nelson last week, said:
"The 1.st dividend declared was on
September 15th, which brought the total up to \$400,000. We have tapped the ore in the fifth or lower tunnel, and are down 600 feet. The last ledge is stronger than the others, but the values are about the same. We expect to put in new rolls at the concentrator soon, to increase the capacity by about five tons daily. The capacity of the concentrator at present is between 25 and 20 tons."

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And report on MINES and PROSPECTS. with specific valuation where desirable, Also plan, estimate and supervise development. Specialry—The appraise. ment of Prospects and

NEW CAMPS.

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Corrected Weekly by Percy W. Charleson, Min-

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Dividends paid to date are as follows: Let Rel. \$625,000; War Engle (Old Company), \$217,500; Rambler-Carloo, \$40,000; Reco. \$160,000; Storan Star. \$55,000; Carlboo, \$156,000, cominion Development, \$128,138.

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

Payne,	\$250,000	Goodenough	\$35,000
Idaho		Noble Five	50,000
Poorman		Northern Belle.	20 000
Kuth		Antoine	
Whitewate		Surpriso	20,000
Washingto		Monttor	15,000
Slocan Boy		Last Chance	50.000

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FIRE MOUNTAIN.

At a meeting of the directors of the Fire Mountain Gold Mining Company, Limited Liability, held at the company's office in this City, on Nov. 1st. Mr. J. M. Mackinnon was elected a director and Vice-President in place of Mr. J. W. Girvin, resigned.

Under continued and steady development this mine is looking so well that it was decided to withdraw all the shares from the market for the present, and it is not at all probable that the shares will be again offered to the public under par.

The following report has been received from Mr. J. R. Brown, Managing Director of the Company:

Fire Mountain, B. C.,

October 1st, 1897.

To the President and Directors of the Fire Mountain Gold Mining Company, Limited Liability, Vancouver. B. C.

Gentlemen,-In accordance with your request, I beg to submit a short description of the Money Spinner group of mines and the other assets, the property of the Fire Mountain Gold Mining Compant, Limited Liability.

The mining claims of the company consist of the Money Spinner, Neptune, Free Gold, Midas, Princess and Star, and the fractions known as Nep-Wonderful, Princess, Midas, tune. King and Mill fractions, on which latter the mill of the company is located. The total area is about 350 acres. The surveys are now completed, and the necessary steps for securing a Crown Grant of the majority of these properties will be taken.

With the exception of the Star mineral claim, the mineral property of the company is in a solid block, and the surface indications point to the existence of several strong lodes, most of which, from the surface showing, will eventually make good paying properties.

On the Money Spinner, the surface showing of the very strong ledgewhich is from 6 to 10 feet in width—is remarkable, and carries high values in an essentially free milling condition. The development of this property has so far justified the expectations of the company, and has continued with depth to give good results, retaining its free milling character with greater width, and has a very even value. The development so far is an adit level running on the vein, which is now in over 140 feet, while a chamber has been cut at 75 feet and winze started, which is now down 35 feet, and running on the vein, which is at this point 5 feet wide. The work is progressing by night and day shift, and every foot so far shows a strong true fissure vein, with constant increase in strength and value. Previous to the starting of this development work, and before any great expenditure had been made by the company, great pains were taken to strip the vein on the surface, and with success, as can be seen by the exposure of the vein in the many open cuts along its surface; in places, as already mentioned, the vein so exposed is never less than 6 and more of ... 10 feet in width; again, in many of these cuts free gold can plainly be scen; sometimes there is a capping of quartitie over the vein, which however, is easily removed; exposing the same rich character of quartz beneath; the vein has in this way been exposed for about 1,000 feet, although very much longer disaceable for s

tance. Sufficient of this work, however, has been done to justify us in the crection of the mill, a description of which I give below.

At the point at which the adic level runs in on the vein, the mountain has an angle of about 50 degrees; the dip of the vein (which has a north ast course), is about 60 degrees. The yein has a strong clay gonge on each wall, and in places shows considerable disturbance, but so far no great displacement, while the ore is remarkably Constant tests of the drillings never fail to rnow colors, and often in considerable quantity.

As I mentioned before, the surface showings on the remaining properties of the company are ruch as to justify the expectations that eventually development will prove up other mines on the property of good value, showing in many cases that the high gold values are carried in the copper. and are not entirely free milling. A property of this size, however, cannot be thoroughly prospected in the short time we have had at our disposal; we have concentrated our efforts on the Money Spinner claim and the mill for handling its output. It must, however, be borne in mind that, unaided by the Provincial Government, we have been obliged to build a wharf for handling our freight; and to construct 16 mil-s of a pack road, on which we had to build a number of bridges, opening up a very extensive mining country. road is now being used by many others who have located very promising properties, both free milling and often velus carrying azurite and bornite ores, including a very good grade of copper and lead sulphurets, which have lately been discovered; in fact the whole district seems to be a net work of intrusive serpentine dykes carrying high gold values, either free or in combination with copper, principally. In the middle bolt of the mountain, however, where is situated the Mency Spinner group, trachyte, porphyry and phonolite have intruded themselves through the original sedimentary country rocks, concealing the latter or altering it almost beyond recognition by metamorphic action. I think the geologist will find this quite an interesting field.

The mill of the Fire Mountain Gold Mining Company, now under construction, will be finished this Fall. It is situated in an air line one half mile from the tunnel of the Money Spinner. and will be connected with it by an aerial tramway now on the ground. The plant of the mill consists of one 5-foot improved Huntington mill; two large Frue vanners; one boller and engine, 20-horse power; one Pelton wheel, with 500 feet fall, capacity 30horse power, which can be increased to double that capacity by the addition of another wheel below; one saw mill, capacity 10,000 feet per diem; one bullion and retort furnace; the necessary copper plates, ore crushers, ore bins, terminals, tracks, etc., and is capable of handling 30 tons per day of Spinner rock. The mill is so constructed that it cin casily be increased in capacity by stamps or additional Huntingtons at a very small extra cost, the power being available. The usual men's quarters, offices, etc., are erected, and nearly 30 pack horses are steadily working in the transportation of the machinery from the townsite to the mill. management has every expectation that before Winter fairly sets in, the mill will be running day and night in order to keep up with the output of the mine, which, by development alone,

has already put 600 tons of good milling ere on the dump and several thousand

tons in sight.

The Star mineral claim (the only one belonging to the company prouped with the others) is situated at the east end of Fire Lake at its outlet, and has a very strong vein of gold quartz exposed in places, but so far undeveloped. This claim is located at a point where Fire Lake constantly discharges into Fire Creek at all seasons some 10,000 inches of water with unlimited head. Probably, in the near inture, this water on the Star mineral claim may, as the many promising prospects of the district are developed Lito mines, furnish power to work them all, and, apart from its very promising mineral value, be of value for this and as a future townsite.

The real estate of the Fire Mountain Gold Mining Company, Limited Liability, consists of the townsite of "Tiptia" and adjoining lands (about acres), situated at the head of Harrison Lake, and connected by a good pack trail with the company's mines, some 16 miles inland. The townsite of Tipella has great natural advantages, not only from its position at the head of navigable waters, but also from the fact of its being the only all-the-year-round point for boats, and will eventually command all the trade, not only of the Fire Mountain district, but of all the very promising mining country lying southeast of the Lillovet coun-11 y, and from the town of Lillooet, and is about 180 miles shorter to the coast

than by other routes.

The importance of Tipella as a townsite was appreclated as early as 1859, when the Royal Engineers, in a map made for the War Office, marked this roint on their map as a desirable site for a town. Considerable clearing and grading has been done by the company, and a large wharf has been constructed. So for the company have not considered it advisable to push the sale of lots, deeming it better to let the town have a natural growth. A general store, livery stable, boarding house, store houses and a few small houses comprise the present building improvements. The townsite is provided by nature with the best of water in unlimited quantities, both for power and domestic purposes, and is well situated for draining, being very high and dry. The company's steamer, the City of Tipella, makes dally trips, carrying the mails between the Harrison Hot Springs and Tipella, the distance being 40 miles.

Trusting that this report will be satisfactory in the information given,

I remain, yours truly,

JOHN R. BROWN.

Managing Director, Fire Mountain Gold Mining Company, Limited ,Liability.

AN EXPERT'S VIEWS.

Continuing his remarks on upper country mine centres, in part published in last week's issue, Mr. T. H. Fraser speaks of

HALCON HOT SPRINGS.

on the western side of Arrow Lake, where a trail of six miles has been made, Pringston creek being half way. Three miles from Pringston creek a valuable mineral belt was discovered some time since, consisting of a huge outcrop, heavily mineralised, trace-

and showing a width from twenty to one hundred feet. This body of ore is pyritite, carrying values in gold, silver and copper equal to \$20 per ton. The ore resembles that on the Le Rol and other Rossland mines. The discoverers of this important mineral belt have maintained strict silence as to its probabilities and possibilities, hence it has remained an isolated camp, unknown to capitalists or mining, men until within the last few days, when Mr. Byrne, a companied by myself, visited the district and thoroughly examined the lady. Por two or three claims on the trend the outcrop shows out in places through the moss, but after the timber is passed, the lode has been exposed by nature and is bare as a billiard table for miles The whole width of the vein matter is composed of pyritite quartz and solid galena in seams carrying values in gold, silver and copper, the galena giving heavy percentages of lead up to 60 per cent. No work of importance has so far been done, a shatt being sunk which is now down 12 feet in solid ore, that is indicative of improvement in values. Transportation will be cary to deep water by aerial train, which can be constructed at a moderate cost. Timber is plentiful and the facilities are excellent for all purposes. The ore can be won and shipped from the very surface and all work done will be in pay ore. No dead work need be anticipated, excepting only making tram for transit. With this complete, ore can be shipped from the mine at a cost not exceeding ten cents per ton. An enormous quantity of ore can be wen at little cost and ore shipped continuously. This proposition has a showing on the surface, unequalled in my mining investigations throughout British Columbia. How this district has so long escaped attention is beyond comprehension. Several of these proper-ties have been taken over by Mr. Byrne on behalf of London and J. han nesourg mining men and more will be heard of them in the near inture. One important factor is that the ore body is devoid of the inevitable from capping and consequently its value is more easily determined with out little exploration.

LARDEAU.

Ten miles from Arrowhead is Thompson's Landing, reached by the C P R, boats, this being the qu' kest toute to Trout Lake City. This is one of the latest camps but at the same time one of the most promising. Although but little of the district has been prospected, sufficient has been done to prove the existence of very rich leads of gold, silver, copper and lead. From Thompsen's Landing to Trent Lake a good wagon road has been made a distance of twelve miles. The country ray esed is one very favorable to the existance of mineral deposits, being a splendid slate formation, solid and in place, although nothing so far has been discovered of any intrinsic value between the two places. On arriving at Trout Lake City, one is surprised at the rapid advance made in building a substantial town. There are several good hotels and others in course of erection. The town has the appearance of being full of business. Trains arrive continuously with supplies and building materials. Several good stores with large supplies meet the eye of a traveller, much surprised when he notices how rapidly this town must have gone ahead.

From Trout Lake City the Horne-

Payne syndicate has built a wagon read through the town of Ferguson, a distance of four miles and thence on to the well known Silver Cup Mining Co.'s property or in all eight miles with good bridges where necessary. Ferand stores, so, too, private residences. This town has also sprung up within the last few months. The Horne-Payne Co. have erected a saw mill, offices and other buildings and been pushing development work on the SIIver Cup ledge, which is carrying high values in silver. The vein matter is largely impregnated with grey copper. but although much money has been expended results are not so encouraging as they might have been under more effective management. Claims in the immediate vicinity have been bonded by this company, but some of these have been abandoned.

Four miles out of Ferguson, a trail legins where the wagon road ends. This takes you to the ten mile up Caynor Creek a turther distance of tour miles, where some fine showings occur, a ledge showing galena going high in silver and lead and traceable throughout several claims. Very these, but assessment shows the lodes up as very promising. Further on two wiles a discovery has been made by the Lade Bros. consisting of a mix-ture of iron and quartz. Two tons of ture of iron and quartz. this were shipped as a test and resulted in the phenomenal return of \$1,100 to the ton in gold. The work done so far applies only to the two tons taken The result when known was a very agreeable surprise. The gold occurs in several stringers, but notwithstanding this, gold is visible all over the stone. Negotiations for the purchase of this property are under consid ration, the owners wanting \$150,-000. Without further test the value of the property cannot, however, be accurately estimated. Several other locations have been made on this line but as yet the lode has not been met.

From the Ten Mile in another direction a trail has been made for 19 miles to the Abbott group, consisting of five claims, viz., Hecla, Abbott, King William, Union, Kamloops. This trail was built at a cost of \$300 to enoble the getting in of supplies and is inpracticable for transportation. discoveries have been made for the 19 n iles but so far no prospecting has been dine. However a good road can and should be made to the foot of Trout Lake, up Halley creek, where a gradual rise can be insured for a distance of 12 miles, which would complete the road to the head of, Hailey Creek at the foot of Abbott hill. cerld be constructed at a cost not excceding from \$12,000 to \$15,000 and would open up much unexplored but valuable country. Another feasible route could be made, traversing the Hall Creck to the Duncan River, a distance of four miles, thence down the Duncan, where steamer transportation can be secured at the Big Jam.

The Abbott mine has a very fine showing on the Abbott claim. chivation of 6,500 feet a tunner has been driven 328 feet, to intersect at a depth of 400 feet the main lode, which is being exposed higher up and in width from 12 to 15 feet trending N. W. and S. E., with four feet of clean galena carrying carbonates and grey copper, the remainder of the lodge being concentrating. Results give over \$100 in silver and up to 75 per cent in lead: This ledge is traceable through the

Abbott, King William Hecla, and The vein occurs in a contact Union. The general formof lime and slate. ation of the country is a fine, soft, brown slate. A belt of limestone a mile in width intrudes through the slate and is continuous right along the country for miles. This intrusion is the foundation of the country. On the King William, on a direct line with the Abbott, the lode which outcrops thirty feet high and 20 feet wide is quartz, carrying grey copper and ga-lena. The country being bare of undergrowth and timber, the outcrop is so distinct that it can be seen for miles with the naked eye, running as true and as straight as a die. Four hundred teet lower down on the King William an outcrop of quartz, three feet wide, is exposed and cut by a creek. About one foot of this is solid galena carrying high values. A tunnel has been driven cutting this veir at 30 feet. This is a true fissure vein cutting the slate at right angles N. E. and S. W. When this junctions with the main icde the possibilities are great. the Abbott claim, 400 feet higher up, another parallel vein is exposed in the lime belt which is regular and well defined right through the country ten feet wide, half of which is solid ga-Another 100 feet higher another vein is exposed from six inches to a foot in width of galena, impregnated with grey ore. These lodes are all with grey ore. strong, passing through the four claims of the Abbott group into the Wagner group, viz., Lucile, Francis Jewel, Emma Fraction, Queen Mary, Princess Marie, Lardeau Fraction, Elia. All these claims are on the same line. A tunnel has been driven on the Francis Jewel, cutting the lode at 40 feet. On the Queen Mary and Princess Marie open cuts expose the continuation of the ledge carrying identical values. On the Lardeau the solid galena is exposed on the surface and traceable right through from the Hecla into the Duncan, in all fourteen claims on the main line. The outcrop on the Duncan is composed of iron rose quartz and seams of solid galena standing out of the ground 50 feet and being 50 feet wide. A tunnel has been driven 100 feet and a cross-cut towards the dip has been finished. Forty-five feet deep cutting the same continuous body of ore sixty feet from the mouth of the tunnel, a good working winze has been sunk, following down the vein at an angle of 55 degrees. At this depth a cross-cut has been driven ten feet towards the hanging wall. A fine body of ore has been met with carrying the same mineral of solid galena and grey copper.

Another property running parallel with the Duncan and known as the Merry has a very fine showing of ga-lena, going 70 per cent in lead and 180 oz. in silver. This occuring in the lime belt is four feet wide and continuous through the claim into another location known at the Bannockburn, also carrying identical values in a lode exposed on the surface and cut away by the elements. For permanency and vast bodies of valuable ore the Lardeau will be a large shipper as soon as railway, or other means of transit are cpen which offers very few difficulties when considering the enormous values of its ore deposits.

The surveyors of the C P. R. are busy planning the route of the great railroad's extension to Rossland. Chier Engineer Perry is thus kept specially busy.

A. Aches

THE BRIDGE RIVER DISTRICT.

The Bend Or group of claims, recently acquired by Messrs. McKinnon, Robertson and Noel, from the locators, two young half-breeds, named Burns and Cargill, consists of two claims known as the Little Joe and White This group is situated about 66 miles from Lillooet, lying in a south westerly direction on Cadwallader Creek, which is a tributary of Bridge River. Leaving Lillooet for the claims the traveller must follow the wagon road for two miles to Seaton Lake and thence cross the lake by cance to Mission Landing, or if he prefers it, travel around the lake by trail. The water route is twelve miles distance and the trail route fourteen miles, Leaving the lake one must continue in a westerly direction, pass over the summit of Mission mountain, a distance of five miles, descending to Jack's Landing, Bridge River, then follow Bridge River for a distance of 35 miles in a south-westerly direction, next up the south fork of Bridge River, a distance of about seven miles to Cadwallader Creek. The Provincial Government has built a trail to the camp and it is stated that a wagon road will be completed early next spring from Senton Lake to Cadwallader Creek. It tokes three days to travel this route on horseback from Lillooet.

Evidence of the importance of these

Evidence of the importance of these discoveries can be noted by the fact that three different locations are now recorded for townsites, two on the south fork of Bridge River and one below the Bend Or group on Cadwallader Creek.

The claims of known value are the Bend Or group of claims, the Ida May, a group of two claims, owned by the Alpha Bell Co., and one fractional claim, between the Bend Or and Ida May. As to the district in general, May. As to the district in general, Mr. F. Soues, Gold Commissioner, writes as follows in his annual report: "Bridge River-Referring to the very imperfect Provincial map, a line drawn from the junction of Big River with Fraser River, to the head waters of Jervis Inlet, would form the centre of the locality to which my remarks will From a personal residence of 34 years in the district of Pemberton, Lillooet and Clinton and during the whole of that time with exceptional opportunities to learn the amount of gold obtained and the localities, I may he supposed qualified to deal with the matter intelligently and correctly. In the decade ending 1869 official public reports with regard to mines and mining in this district are conspicuous only by their absence. The early miners into this Province, 1859-60, worked their way up the Fraser River; testing all the tributaries for gold. River in those years was located and worked and from that time on to the present by white; Indian and Chinese miners, year by year, with varying success. The richest finds and richest nuggets were obtained in the decade referred to. For the decade ending 1879 we have official mining statistics commencing in 1874, in some of which annual reports, place has been found for Lillooet district and the estimated returns. In others the district has been entirely ignored.

From 1860 to the discovery of Cayoosh Creek, Bridge River has been the principal source of the gold obtained. In the old mercantile books of Mr. Smith, Mr. Foster and the other traders doing business in Lilicovet in the sixtles and the records of the now slmost forgotten Dietz and Nelson ex-

press line for carrying express and treasure between Victoria and Lillouet. could be examined, the result would be a very striking array of figures of the amount of gold obtained from Bridge River and the Fraser benches and bars in the immediate neighborhood of Lillouet. In the early sixties the principal workings were from the mouth to the head of Deep Canyon, from which point the river thors through a long marshy section some fifty miles. The river bed here is a smooth, sandy, with fine gravel, in which only fine colors have been found. Above this stretch Tyaughton Creek has produced considerable coarse gold. Young Creek so far has produced only fine gold in a limited quantity. Coarse gold is here found on Cadwallder Creek and the South Fork. Mr. A. W. Smith showed me samples of 6 oz. of very coarse gold, which he bought from an Indian last week, whose claim is located at a point above Gun Creek. The valley of the Bridge River for a considerable distance is paralleled by the valley in which are situated Suaton Lake and Anderson Lake and at one point on Seaton Lake the distance to Bridge River at Jack's Landing is only about 6 miles. The division between these two valleys is a high and much broken up ridge of mountains with numerous streams (not shown on the Provincial map) falling into the above named lakes.

"It will be noted from the foregoing orief and imperfect remarks that Eridge River and its tributaries have been in places highly auriferous with a possible barren zone above the deep canyon and further that it has a wide spread surrounding or mineralised tocks. The gold found in the river is unmistakeably different to that found on the Fraser River bars and benches and in form and size of the pieces bears a strong resemblance to the gold found in the placer workings in Bendigo, Victoria, in the early fifties, with this difference that Bridge River gold shows much more recent release from its rocky matrix, in fact at least one-third of the pieces still hold imbedded pieces of quartz.

In other lands placer mining has

with few exceptions, whether in wide areas of alluvial deposits, in ancient or modern river beds, led up to the discfovery of the rocky matrix from which the alluvial gold was obtained. Placer deposits in a few years led to the discovery of the famous Constock lode. Placer deposits located the Treadwell mine on Douglas Island. The fabulously rich placer mines of Ballarat and Bendigo, discovered in 1851. in two years located the reefs, some of which Bendigo have "lived down" over 5,000 feet and have continued working for over forty years. The experience on Cayoosh Creek shows that in little more than one year the matrix of at least a portion of the gold found in the creek will be located.

In the above report Mr. Souch has given a sketch of properties on Bridge River, which have added to the golden wealth of the district and province for parently the past 36 years and now the recent discoveries of the Bend Or and Ida May groups of claims have apparently demonstrated whence much control the supply comes. It is a moreover noted fact that for every dollar obtained from the bed of Cayoosh Creek twenty dollars have been taken from Bridge River and the rich quartz ledges recently discovered have undoubtedly furnished the supply that has been gathered from its earliest history.

THE ATHABASCA.

The feltering is a summary of the report, jet issued, of the Athabasea (Gold Mining Co.)

Nelson, B. C., Oct. 25, 1897. The Atheba on Gold Mining Company, New Westinduster, B. C:

Gentlemen, - There are at present 276 feet of tunnels, 110 feet of shafts, and about 800 feet of stripping (200 feet of which has been upon ledges the baltuce being in the nature of prejecting), besides which there is an open cut 20 feet long by 12 feet high, and various upraises, stopes, etc.

The work has disclosed several balls of (4) it excellent grade, although considerable work will be required to develop these bodies sufficiently to pay divideads.

Upon the main ledge is a tunnel 275 feet and a winze 68 feet, at the lett m of which is a drift 16 icci, this winze and drift being in ore t, 18 mehes wide, assays of which, at a depth of 68 feet, gave \$101.60 per ton in gold. Operations on the drift have been suspended, owing to bad cir and scepage of water, and before resuming, arrangements will have to be made for hoisting, either by steam or horse power. There are also two upraises from the tunnel to the surface and considerable stoping has been done and ore mined from this ledge. South of this 180 feet, a great deal of work has been done, consisting of 146 thet of tunnels, 35 feet of drifts, etc. Very rich ore has been found here, several shipments having averaged \$100 per ton. Seventy-five feet east of the main ledge, another ledge has been stripped about 160 feet, showing six to 12 inches of quartz. One hundred feet west of the main ledge, a stripping of about 59 feet has been made on about 10 inches of quartz. About 309 feet west of the main ledge, a discovcry has been made this month of a very fine looking ledge, about 16 inches wide where opened, which is now being stripped. We intend to do some work upon this showing at once, as it is very promising, and may, with a litthe work, develop into as valuable a producer as the ledges now worked. worked.

All the above work has been done then the Athabasca claim.

Upon the Algoma claim there has been about 70 feet of stripping on the ledge, which runs in size from 6 to 30 h.chcs, but as this ore (as also that on the Athabasca ledges stripped as above) is of a milling character, more extended work has been deferred until milling facilities are provided.

No work has been done on either the Alberta or Manitoba claims, but there are on these claims, and on the Athabasca and the Algoma, several adutional exposures of quartz that have not yet been investigated. All the exposures mentioned carry free gold, more or less.

The preimmary work of building cabins, trail, etc., was mentioned in my report in July last. Since then the survey of the property has been completed, and a Crown grant is now being advertised for. The number of men employed has ranged from 16

Our shipments to the Hall Mines smelter have given returns (gross) as-follows: 16 1-2 tons, \$76.20 per ton; 17 tons, \$75.56 per ton; 18 tons, \$26.56 per ton; 18 3-4 tons, \$26.45 per ton; 21 tons, \$74.36 per ton; 19 tons, \$41.81 per

ton; 28 tons, \$107.62 per ton; 30 tons, \$107.28 per ton.

We are now sacking 20 to 30 tons of are for ghipment this week. We have also accumulated upon the various dumps about 450 tons of milling ore.

Owing to the state of the trail caused by heavy rains, it will be impossible to make further shipments until we have good sleighing, and then we cannot ship until we make our trail into a good sleigh road. I would, therefore, recommend the Company to practically suspend shipments for the present, and continue simply development work pilling up the ore upon the dumps to milling and concentrating treatment on the ground, and also to have in view the installation of a stamp mill at an early date, which would enably us to handle the ore far more cheaply than at present.

Yours truly. C. A. WING.

THE NOBLE FIVE.

This noted Slocan mine has temporprily closed down, pending, it is understood, the raising of a large amount of further capital for mine working and extension purposes. The directors are for a time at the end of their money resources and a large overdraft of \$50,-000 due to the Bank of B. N. A. has. amongst other things, to be met. Mens wages are also in arrears. It is believed that reconstruction arrangements will be made, as the property is generally understood to be very valuable, but \$150,000 are required to put the mine's finances on a thoroughly satisfactory basis. There are on the other hand, reports that the ore body in the mine has given out, but this is strongly denied and it would seem -though an authorised report is not at the moment to hand-that further working capital is the main requisite. The mine has till recently been a regular shipper and produced since Aug. 1st 512 tons of ore. There is naturally a big fall in the mine stock which, lately quoted at 50 cents, is now down in Spokane to 17.

THE CROW'S NEST COAL LANDS.

The East Kootenay bureau of information makes the following statement as to these, which is undoubtedly in the main, an accurate representation

of facts and possibilities:

"On both Bull River and Elk River there are large deposits of hematite, which, with the proximity of the finest coking coal in the world, should make this part of Fort Steele district the home of multitudes of people. The Crow's Nest Coal Company is already putting its property in shape for production, so that by the time the Crow's Nest Railway is running to Kootenay Lake, coal and coke will be ready for shipping. The coal lands owned by this company are of enormous extent, and as the seams aggregate over 100 feet of first quality coal, lying above water level, one bed being 30 feet in thickness, the avilable quantity is unlimited, and the marketing of it will have a beneficial effect on the mining industry in both East and West Kootenay. The Canadian Government has bound the railway and coal companies with ironclad contracts to certain charges, both for coal at the pits and freight rates on the same, so that, even though the coal business be a monopoly, it cannot become an oppressive one."

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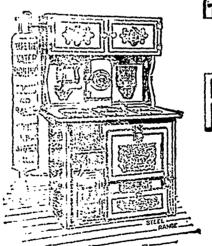
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The B. C. Mining Critic, Vancouver, B.C.

THE STUMP IN VANCOUVER SYN-DICATES.

The British, Columbia Review of London, England, speaks under This heading, as follows, concerning the Galena mine flasco, on which we comment editorially elsewhere:

ment editorially elsewhere:

"While extending our congratulations to the Board of the Vancouver and British Columbia General Exploration Company, Limited, on he'r decision to meet the heavy slump in the market price of their shares by calling a meeting of the proprietors and enting the facts before them in all their naked truth, we are yet sory that we cannot equally congratulate the shareholders on the position disclosed. Rumors of an adverse character to the Company and all its works have been itoating about the city for some weeks,, and probably inside selling of Galenas at merely rubbish prices, indicated that in some quarters it was realised that the Vancouver Syndicate, as it is known in the city, had been the unintentional instrument for folsting a worthless silver-lead property upon the British public. But we do not think that the shareholders of either the Vancouver Syndicate or the Galena, Mines, Limited, had any idea that the state of affairs was so

idea that the state of affairs was so lamen'ably disquieting.

Mr. Comiskey might have been a little more particular and less general in his remarks, perhaps. For instance, he passed over Mr. Callahan's connection with the Company by saying that Mr. Callahan "was supposed to be a first-class miner," and that is all that he said about this gentleman's connection—with the Galena Company. To a shareholder who tried to draw him regarding Mr. Callahan's management of the property he vouchsafed no clear explanation but passed on to discuss the present position and outlook before the Syndicate. A great deal was made about Mr. Carlyle's reports. Mr. Carlyle, however, simply drew up his reports for the guidance of the Government, and it behoved the directors before launching this 'll-fated concern to have very carefully checked the reports made about it by absolutely impartial experts before accepting them, and making them the bases of an application to the British public for a large sum of money to exploit the property. Surely the presence of zinc should have been discovered by experts at the very outset, instead of having to be disclosed nearly twelve months after the formation of the Company, as one of the reasons of the reasons of the failure of the property to realise the hopes of its founders.

Of course we know that to a large extent blame is laid upon Mr. Callahan; but all the same, it ought to be pointed out that for some time advices from British Columbia about the Galena have been distinctly alarming; and as this was one of the chief properties of the Syndicate, was quite sufficient to account for the heavy fall in the shares. While we do not for one moment impugn the bona fides of the directors of the Vancouver Syndicate, we sincerely regret in the in-terests of the Province that they should have been connected with such a frôst. Very littlé was said about the other properties and options of the Syndicate; but what was said was not, we are afraid, of a character to in-spire much confidence in the breasts of the holders of either Vancouver Syndicates or Galenas, or indicate any

possibility of an early recovery in the market prices of these issues from the depths of depression into which they have been plunged brithe series of unfortunate events which were punctuated by the admissions at Thursday's meeting by the Chairman." The "Review" now speaks in a very

different and wiser strain from what it dld but a short time since, concerning the Galena Mine and its exploiters. It has evidently learnt part of the truth at last about a flotation that has done infinite discredit to B. C. mine company promotion. A few more such ventures and the development of our Province's precious metal mining by British capital, will be set back for years. The "Review" can, therefore, do good service to B. C., by exposing such promoters and attempted promoters in London.

GOLD PLACERS AND LODES.

"Where there are placers there are lodes," is a statement often made with the assurance of "where there is smoke there is fire." We hear it frequently with reference to the depesits of the Yukon. In this case it is almost entirely a matter of surmise, because there has not been any general exploration for lodes there, attention having been concentrated upon the easily worked placers, and prospecting in the hills being difficult, for various reasons. There may be workable veins of gold quarts above the placers and there may not. There are vague reports as to the existence of some, but it does not follow necessarily, either in the Yukon or elsewhere, that where there are placers there are workable

A placer deposit of gold or tin is a natural concentrator of mineral that existed in solid rock. The erosion of wind and water acting through immeasurable time has worn down the earth's surface in many places to a marvelous extent. In this kind of dis-integration stable minerals like gold and cassiterite, which are of much greater specific gravity that their original matrix, were concentrated in water courses, just as they are now concentrated by men in sluicing. But nature has concentrated mil...ns of tons of mineral where man has to concentrate comparatively few.

The discovery of such a natural concentration, an alluvial deposit, does not, however, imply that its source will be found, or if found, workable, because the original lode may have been eroded entirely, and therefore no longer in existence; the placer gold or tin may have come from a dissemination in a great mass of rock which it would never pay to mine, or from innumerable veinlets which were never exploitable; or the auriferous debris may have been carried far from its criginal source by glacier action, so that no connection between placer and lode can be established. It is not to be inferred from these suggestions. however, that there are not cases where placers have led directly to mother lodes. Numerous instances can be cited where they have done so, and vice versa. The conclusion is simply that no general rule can be laid down, and the existence of rich placers does not in itself imply the existence of rich, or even workable veins.

The placers of Breckenridge, Colo., were discovered at the time of the Pike's Peak excitement (1859) and have been worked more or less ever since, producing a good many mil-lions of gold. Their origin from lodes

near by can be traced with reasonable certainty, and some of these lodes have been worked profitably, but the production of the lodes has not yet been a tithe of that of the placers. At the head of French guich, which was very rich; there is an immende suriferous dike intersecting the slate country rock. The dike itself is generally low grade, but in the joint planes of the slate adjacent to it there are veinlets of exceedingly rich ore in which the wonderful specimens of wire and srystall ngeold for which Breckenridge is famous, are found. Both the dike and the veinlets in the slate have been worked, but so far neither of them profitably. There was a similar experience at Leadville, where the mines which were discovered at the head of California guich never yielded what the wealth of the gulch bottom was thought to indicate. In these instances nature in long eras effected prohably a rich concentration of gold from an immence amount of very low grade material.-Ex.

THE WONDERFUL.

It is reported that the Wonderful mine, near Sandon, has been leas-ed to two miners, who will pay the Company 25 per cent. of the net returns of ore shipped.

Speaking about the mine, a Sandon mining man said last Saturday: "Work on the Wonderful has been suspended, with the exception that two of the miners formerly employed by the Company are working the ground sluices under a lease, paying a royalty of 25 per cent. on all the ore taken out. They have made a shipment of about 15 tons that is said to carry the same value as the average of the output while the mine was in active operation; that is, about 126 ounces of silver and 70 per cent. lead, or an approximate value of \$125 per ton.

"The Wonderful property has ways been considered a phenomenon in silver mining, the pay ore having been taken from a blanket vein lying practically on the surface, by ground sluicing and hydraulic work, and the property is known throughout the Slucan as the only silver placer mine in the world. While the pay ore has been taken from the surface, every effort has been made to locate the main vein, which mining men firmly believe to exist at a greater or less depth. Much money has been spent in opening tunnels in the vain attempt to find the lead."

THE MINING STOCK MARKET.

The "Spokesman-Review," in its weekly summary of the Spokane min-ing stock market, says: "The local market for mining stocks has been lacking in startling features during the past week. About the usual amount of business was done, and as in previous weeks, the inquiry was large, but the holders of stocks that were in demand refused to sell at any reduction from the highest quotations, and

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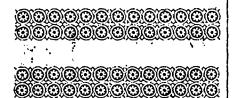
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the result is few transfers in proportion to the actual demand.

"The report of the closing of the Noble Five mine had a depressing effect on the market, and the difficulties in the Wonderful Company also had a tendency to weaken confidence. On the other hand, Evening Star, Poorman, Rambler-Cariboo and Deer Park showed marked activity, owing to favorable reports from the properties."

In reviewing the market for the week, the Rossland "Miner" says:

"A marked feature of the market has been the inquiry for large blocks of treasury stock, running from 100,000 to 200,000 shares. These inquiries were from London and Eastern Canada syndicates. The parties making the inquiries ask for representation on the directorate, and in explanation of this say that they wish to be sure that the money which they advance goes into the development of the properties of the companies which they invest in, instead of into the pockets of promoters."

ANOTHER LE ROI DIVIDEND.

It is stated that, notwithstanding the heavy expenditure in connection with the smelter at Northport, the Le Roi Company will declare its regular dividend of \$50,000 this month.

ABOUT NELSON.

From Our Own Correspondent:

EXCHEQUER MINING CO., LD., LY.

J. C. Drewry, the Secretary of the above Co., is about to place a force of men to work on the "Exchequer," owned by this Co. The property has never looked better than at present and the three ledges on the same are to be proved immediately. The shareholders will watch with interest this well known gold claim. Silver has also been found upon it and a thorough prospect of the ground will be made.

JULIUS CAESAR.

Work is here again proceeding and will be pushed ahead as rapidly as possible. Latest assays give \$45 in gold alone. It adjoins the "Mascot" and "Red Rock" and extension of the well known "Princess," owned by H. G. Neelands, and A. Gerard, of Nelson.

TOAD MOUNTAIN.

Enquiries for Toad Mountain property have lately been more abundant than heretofore, and English capital is directing its attention to even undeveloped claims, in the vicinity of the famous "Silver King."

STEMWINDER AND BLACK CHIEF

These are situate on Toad Mountain and adjoining "Goldendale." Assessment work is just completed on both. There is a fine showing of copper (peacock). Assays are now being made. The claims are owned by A. Macdonald, of Winnipeg: R. M. Macdonald barrister, of Nelson, and R. T. Lennie. Development work will at once proceed.

GREAT WESTERN AND GREAT

EASTERN GROUP.

These are owned by H. H. Keely and others. There have lately been brought down from them several specimens of quartz, showing free gold in considerable quantities. The ledge is widening and from the present amount of work done, indicates a likelihood that the property will prove valuable. The claims are on Toad Mountain.

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GRAND FORKS POSSIBILITIES.

It is reported, though the statement as yet lacks authoriative confirmation, that an English company proposes to erect two moderate sized smelters of 100 tons each at Grand Forks and Midway respectively. Probably the report is premature, under existing conditions.

PILOT BAY AND AINSWORTH.

It is stated that there is a possibility that the Pilot Bay smelter may ultimately add refilning to the scope of its operations. Meanwhile smelting will there recommence, so soon as some 4,000 tons of ore become available. to the mines about Ainsworth, Mr. G. B. Wright, an old settler, reports as follows, as quoted in the Rossland "Record":

The Blue Bell is doing well. No. 1, which has a concentrator of its own, is getting in shape to concentrate its cre.

"The Tariff, owned by the Pilot Bay smelter, is getting into shape. It con-tains lead ore and runs 70 per cent lead and about 50 or 60 ounces in silver per

"The Highland, owned bу Stevenson, of Philadelphia, is showing up a good body of ore. Several thousand tons of ore, after being extracted by its own concentrator, which is on the eve of starting, will be shipped. The wire tramway from the Highland to its concentrator has just been completed and works smoothly. It is said that Mr. Stevenson has contracted for the output of the Black Diamond. The ere will have to be brought by a wagon road to the concentrator. Hiththe ores of the Black Diamond have been shipped to the Everett or Tacoma smelters. Large bodies of concentrating ore are showing up in this mine.

"The recent strike on the Albion has excited much attention in Ainsworth. It has a vein seven feet thick and of a high grade concentrating ore. It is said a wire tramway is to be erected to get the ore to the lake, but for the present a newly constructed wagon read will be utilised, by which the ore can be taken to Mr. Stevenson's concentrating works or else shipped from Mile Point wharf. All these mines are within a radius of three miles of Ainsworth.

"There are rumors of the Mamie and King Solomon group putting in ma-chinery on an extensive scale. The Jeff. Davis, it is also reported, will seen be put in good shape for work. "The Skyline has been leased to

Frank Clapp on the condition that he continues the present shaft 200 feet

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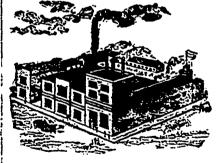
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