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# British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

WEEKLY EDITION.

Vol. I, No. 40.

VANCOUVER, B.C., SATURDAY, JAN. 29, 1898.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

## NOTICES.

All communications intended for THE EDITOR should be sent direct to

THE EDITORIAL OFFICES,  
319 CANNIE STREET,  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

*The British Columbia Mining Critic is published weekly in the interest of Mining, Finance and Commerce, and for the protection of investors.*

*Subscription, Two Dollars a year, payable in advance.*

FRANK S. TAGGART,  
Editor and Managing Director.

## British Columbia Mining Critic

Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd.

Publishing Offices: 401 and 403 Cordova St., Vancouver, B.C.

## EDITORIAL.

### "JOCKEYED."

There is no doubt that the much eulogized Minister of the Interior, the Hon. Mr. Sifton, will have to learn and unlearn much, ere he lives even half up to the greatness, thrust upon him by swarms of adulators, some of whom no doubt expect, or expected substantial favors from his department, in a country where unfortunately reform of a rotten system of civil service patronage is apparently quite out of the programme of either of Canada's great political parties. Mr. Sifton has already once amended previously unworkable Yukon regulations, and it is already certain that in many important respects the revised decrees of his department will still be found overexacting in some cases, and unduly preferential in others. It is clear, too, that as regards the disposal of Yukon timber limits no care has been taken to give sufficient time for proper competition amongst all applicants, and it would also appear that the same is the case with dredging leases and permits. Indeed, in each instance there is something unbusinesslike if not suspicious, in the undue haste that has been shown, as regards the departmental intentions to grant valuable privileges "right and left" long ere half the possible applicants in the Yukon can learn what is on offer. Only in an apparent disposition to hold back land grants, is there any prudence seemingly

being shown in the present administration of the Yukon by the present Minister of the Interior.

And as men of all parties perceive—the MINING CRITIC not being, moreover, run as a political organ—the Hon. Mr. Sifton has clearly been cleverly "jockeyed" by Secretary of State Gage and other adroit United States politicians. Even our boards of trade are therefore compelled to protest, and this loudly, against the lack of reciprocity secured from the United States by Mr. Sifton's mal-adroit diplomacy. He has, on behalf of Canada, assented to a nationally humiliating foreign relief expedition, in aid of residents whom the flag and rule of Canada should sufficiently protect and whose lives should be made as safe as it is possible by Dominion Government and not by United States action. Mr. Sifton has also confirmed to immigrants and traders from the United States the fullest and easiest of bonding and other privileges in connection with the carriage of American goods through British Yukon to Alaska. Meanwhile, to the utter disgust and vast detriment of Canada's outfitters of this Province, he has failed to secure the immediate grant of equal privileges to Canadian goods in return over a strip of land which has not, yet even been declared American soil, but is practically certain thus now to be declared, as a result of a "laissez faire, laissez aller" policy of inaction, which allows the United States to make an effective occupation of the Dyea-Skagway district. Our Minister of the Interior calmly suffers day after day to pass, whilst statesmen of heavier metal on the other side of the line contrive all kinds of sham excuses for a procrastination, which nullifies the effect of Canada's import duties, from which otherwise and in other cases, Heaven knows, Western Canadian consumers suffer in the pocket enough. Thus men are outfitting by hundreds on the other side of the international boundary who would come hither, did Canada secure her rights, and almost the only instance in which British Columbia might benefit considerably and exceptionally by a protective system, is allowed to become nugatory; all the consolation that our merchants receive for this neglect of their vital interests being a number of politely worded telegrams from the worthy Minister of the Interior. If this be states-

manship, Heaven deliver Pacific Canada from much more of it. The past Dominion administration certes did little enough for and took a good deal from British Columbia; the present prematurely eulogized Government of Canada shows few signs as yet of bettering the record.

#### THE STICKINE DISTRICT RAILROAD.

Evidently a railroad is with all speed to be built from the Stickine river to Teslin lake, and connected by shallow draught steamboats with Dawson City, at the instance of the Dominion Government. This is as it should be, and displays more Government promptitude than usual. Full particulars of the construction agreement are not to hand, but it appears that there will be no cash subsidy, the contractors, Messrs. Mann & Mackenzie, expecting to recoup their expenditure of probably \$1,500,000, in part by the results of a large land grant in the Stickine district, and in remainder by sharing the profits on line working, which will, it is stated, be undertaken by the C. P. R. The line will most likely have but a short lease of very productive life, since in all probability the rich placers of the Yukon will be all worked out, or nearly worked out in less than ten years, and there is not thought to be an enormous store of mineral wealth in the district of Cassiar, through which the line will run. Still, whilst the Yukon gold yield holds out, the railroad which, being light and of narrow gauge, can on the whole be moderately cheaply built and worked, should earn enough to repay its promoters all their outlay with substantial profit returns in less even than ten years, as during its existence it will almost certainly be "the route" to the Yukon. A big force of workers will almost immediately commence construction, and the line should be completed before September, much of it being opened earlier for traffic. Its construction and subsequent working by the C. P. R. should easily make Vancouver the best place of outfit and general embarkation for the Yukon, and gain for our city for several years a large amount of valuable trade, even if, as is certain, the dangerously inflated present Klondike "boom" collapses ere the leaves fall in early autumn. There will even then probably remain some 25,000 goldseekers in the Yukon, whose considerable needs must be supplied, and should be, to a large extent, via Vancouver.

#### THE PROVINCIAL CHAMBER OF MINES.

As our news columns briefly show, this important Provincial endeavor is well under way, being apparently in good and capable hands, and receiving the general all-round support of our mining community. This secured, there should be little doubt that whatever can be done to aid the project by various

city boards of trade will not be found wanting. The rock of sectionalism seems happily to have been rounded in safety, and the project is apparently sailing in smooth water. If necessary, the Provincial Government will facilitate the grant of the statutory charter by taking it up officially, but in all probability the general assent of the Provincial legislature will, irrespective of party, be given to the introduction of the measure in the ordinary way by a body of private members, full compliance with the standing orders as to notice, and otherwise, being waived by unanimous vote.

#### EDITORIAL N. TES.

It is now certain that the C. P. R. absolutely controls the railroad situation in the Boundary country, as everywhere else in the Province outside of Vancouver Island. The purchase of the Columbia and Western interests of the Heinze combination absolutely assures this.

The Kamloops Sentinel talks very wildly of the Cassiar Central Railroad project, most absurdly describing it as a bubble instead of what it is—a very substantially capitalized undertaking, in the hands of strong and capable British men of business, who mean to commence without delay the construction of a very necessary railroad, and with it the development of a difficult but probably productive mineral country.

The frequency of goodly dividends on Slocan district silver mines makes it clear that ere long the Payne will be no longer the only rival of Trail creek's famous mine, the Le Roi, as a big dividend payer. The Slocan will almost certainly produce several mines that will as dividend earners head off even the famous Le Roi, values per ton being higher and current expenses in the aggregate lower in the case of our richest silver mines, than in those of our best present copper-gold producers.

Major Walsh, the Yukon administrator does well to sound a note of warning against the expected inordinate inrush to Klondike. He clearly hints that there is no opportunity for even a fourth of the 250,000 immigrants expected, and asserts that if a big host rushes in, it will be quite impossible to convey into the country during the short import season half the requisite necessaries of life. One thing, however, the Major leaves out of his reckoning: The 250,000 people, mostly foolish and misguided, wont stay—at least 200,000 will return to warmth and civilization long before next winter. The Yukon most assuredly cannot maintain long 50,000 people; a fluctuating population of from 20,000 to 25,000 will probably fully suffice for its adequate development.

Western Australia's gold yield increased hugely

last year, the output being 674,995 ounces, as compared with 281,265 ounces only in 1896. Each succeeding year has shown—despite the discouragement of the investor caused by large numbers of unproductive mine swindles—a big advance of Western Australia's gold yield. Thus 1893 showed an output of 110,890 ounces, 1894 a yield of 207,131, 1895 an advance to 231,512 ounces, 1896 a return of 281,265 ounces, and 1897 a yield of 674,995 ounces, representing a sterling value of £2,564,076, or the equivalent of \$12,364,000. Clearly, therefore, large strides through British Columbia is making as regards gold production, we have yet very much leeway to make up, ere our figures begin to approach those of "golden Western Australia." The thing is not so easy as it seemed in 1896, when Western Australia's gold output was less than half what it proved last year. Fortunately, however, we have in addition to our gold and copper—both of which Western Australia possesses—abundant wealth in silver, lead, iron and coal, so that, taken all round, our mineral record should easily outpace that of Western Australia. Gold is, after all, but one of our many metal and mineral resources.

It is clear that there is about to ensue an enormous development of the world's copper mining, in view of the increasing demand for that metal in connection with electrical and other mechanical appliances. Hence competition will be keener, and the best and most productive mines will probably cause many of those of lower grade to become incapable of profitable working. And now the news comes from the Australian colony of South Australia that there is shortly to be a big expansion of copper mining in the Mammoth Black Ridge district, which fortunately happens to be situated within 100 miles of a fine coal district. The deposits are stated to be very rich, though they have long been neglected, only surface working having been done at intervals during a period of more than 40 years. The ores will now be mined at depth, and, it is stated, will be found richer with depth. From which, amongst other indications, recent valuable finds of copper in Western Australia and Tasmania being also instances in point, it is clear that no time should be lost in pushing our best British Columbia copper-producing claims well to the front, and inducing the incoming of sufficient well directed capital to develop them to the full. It is to be hoped that the present year will afford indications of this. If not, it is quite likely that successful Australian competition in copper mining will for a considerable period "head us off." Of this there would appear to be real danger, for although the Antipodes are much further from the world's chief markets than we, the transport of Australia's ores can be mainly made by water, over which distance counts far less than it does over land.

#### MOST PROBABLY ANYTHING BUT A BONANZA.

The Klondike Bonanza, Limited, is an English company, organized in London, under a capital of £150,000, with a view to acquire 10 claims of Yukon placer, 7½ of which are stated to be on Bonanza creek and 2½ on Last Chance creek, in the Klondike, from a gentleman named Ironmonger Sola, who has for some time been "booming" the Yukon in London and posing as a Klondike pioneer of great fame, though strange to state, very little can be heard on this Pacific coast of Mr. Sola and his reported big success. The English company is to pay to an intermediary buyer from this Mr. Sola and an undisclosed partner of his no less than £100,000—or about \$485,000—for the claims, and various references in the prospectus show that exceptionally large profits are being made by intermediaries. At least two of the directors of the company are moreover of the "guinea pig" order, and the price asked for the claims is big indeed, if, as the Dawson miners loudly asserted at a recent meeting, the average life of a Bonanza creek claim is only a term of about two years. The Klondike Bonanza, Limited, of which Lieut.-Col. MacGeorge is chairman, appears to us to be a very highly speculative investment indeed, and one distinctly to be avoided by all who cannot afford to run big risks of loss. It will probably take the company most, if not all, its time to get back its large capital, to say nothing of dividends during the short lives of the placer claims which it holds. The wage bill of the mining workers engaged will, moreover, make a huge deduction from the gross value of any gold output gotten.

#### TELEGRAPH CREEK RAILROAD.

The Dominion Government has, it is stated, arranged that Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann, the well-known contractors, shall almost immediately begin the construction of a railroad between Telegraph creek and Teslin lake. The road will, it is expected, be completed by September, but large sections of it will, for the convenience of Yukon traffic, in all probability be opened by the end of May or June. The C. P. R. will operate the line, which will be about 125 miles long, and after September, during those parts of each year when the rivers and lakes are open, enable Yukon travelers to reach Dawson City from Vancouver in about ten days. A week's journey even is suggested, but there is little doubt that in the better part of the traveling season the journey can, when the railroad is completed and river and lake steamboat services are connected therewith, be satisfactorily accomplished in ten days. A longer period would, of course, be required in winter, when the difficulty of travel would be greatly increased.

### THE OMINECA COUNTRY.

Mr. C. N. Black, C. E., manager of two Omineca mining companies, was one of the visitors in the city last week, in attendance at the meeting of the Mining Engineers' Association. Mr. Black was a caller at the office of the MINING CRITIC, and, in speaking of the Omineca country said:

"In that country British Columbia has a vast area of gold-bearing territory that until recently has been very little explored. The gold-bearing tract thus far discovered is on the Arctic slope and the streams tributary to the Peace river. The difficulty of access, the uncertainty of food supplies, and the great expense of transportation have, in spite of the richness of the country, almost entirely defeated all attempts at mining operations on an extensive scale until within the last two years, when three companies commenced operations on Manson, Germenson and Slate creeks. The nearest railway point is 570 miles distant; the first 100 miles are over a good wagon road; the remainder of the way is over a trail, part of it being the famous Telegraph trail. There is plenty of feed for pack horses along the trail. Boats also could be used from Soda Creek, on the Fraser River, to within 60 miles of the mines.

"In summer the Omineca can also be reached from the coast by steamer to Hazelton on the Skeena river, whence a good trail 150 miles in length extends to the mines. The trails have been much improved the past two years, and at the present time pack animals can easily get in, and the rate on freight has been reduced from \$1 to 16½ cents per pound from Victoria to Manson and Germenson creeks.

"The first rush to the Omineca was in 1890, when rich diggings were discovered on Germenson creek, and the following year gold was found on Manson and other creeks. Consequent, however, on the Cassiar stampede and the prevailing high freight rates the country was nearly abandoned in a few years. Ground that would not pay to work then, will yield rich returns now when worked by modern hydraulic processes.

"The first eight years the Omineca creeks yielded \$1,000,000 in dust and nuggets. Last year two men took out \$48,000, and at least \$30,000 more were taken out by other miners rocking and sluicing. Nuggets worth \$200 have frequently been found. During 1888 the largest nugget taken out was worth \$69. On Last Chance creek, a tributary of Manson, the Irwin company of five men took out 500 ounces in one week. Four men took \$105,000 out of one claim. On Black Jack gulch, another tributary of the Manson, in 1891, five men averaged \$200 per day throughout the season.

"Doubtless the Omineca is an extremely rich country. But it is not a poor man's country. At

the present time a person going there must figure on putting in at least two years' time and spending \$1,500. There may be new creeks struck, for 100 miles north of the Omineca is a district that has never been explored by white men. It lies between Peace river and the now famous Yukon; but to explore this country will take both money and grit.

"The paystreak in the Omineca is undoubtedly a glacial deposit. It is supposed to cross the river at right angles, and it overlaps at 40 feet above the bedrock. It is composed of chloritic schists and shale, overlapped in some places by ferruginous cement. This cement carries gold also, and glacial strata is composed of schists and argillites mixed with stiff blue clay, gray shale and quartz in large amounts, and appears to extend for miles. Although I have only proved it in one place, it shows all the way to Lost creek on the east bank of the Manson and also Germenson creek in many places."

Mr. Black will return to the Omineca shortly to look after the properties in which he is interested.

### CLEARLY A FAKE PROJECT.

It is stated in and about Chicago that a man named Northup is about to inaugurate a stage service between Ashcroft and Teslin lake, a distance of over 800 miles, along which the fellow states that he will carry passengers for the small sum of \$30. The announcement is clearly a "fake" of the worst kind, for, as the Mining Journal of Ashcroft points out, there is not yet a road on which such a stage can run between Ashcroft and Teslin lake, whilst the fare stated is by reason of its smallness impossible. Yukon swindles will in vast numbers be perpetrated this spring in the United States, the above scheme being an apt instance in point.

### TEXADA NOTES.

The Surprise people are purchasing a steam plant that will bring them down to the 400-foot level. They are down to the 250-foot level now. They have recently completed a wagon road to Davis bay, one and a half miles, and have erected good substantial timber shaft houses and comfortable quarters for their employes.

A new wagon road has been built by the Duluth owners of the Capsheaf.

The Vananda Copper Company is sinking a permanent shaft, and has the work well under way.

The Red Deer Syndicate is making explorations for the purpose of locating claims and finding suitable places to sink shafts.

A number of sales took place last week, and from \$100 to \$500 were paid for individual prospects.

It is rumored that a hotel will be opened shortly, a provision which the traveling public would appreciate.

### 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.

#### EXPECTED RUTH DIVIDEND.

It is stated that this prospering Slocan mine will shortly declare a dividend of \$75,000.

#### A SILVERTON SHIPMENT.

The Comstock mine at Silverton has just shipped to Nelson 275 sacks of ore. The consignors expect it to average rather over 100 ounces in silver and about 60 per cent. lead.

#### THE COAL HILL CAMP.

Kamloops men think very highly of this year's prospects of the development of their district of Coal Hill as a copper-gold camp. Considerable development work is in 1898 expected on the Erin, Pothook, Copper King, Iron Mask, Python and Iron Cap amongst the other claims.

#### A GOOD SHOWING.

The Fern mine, of the Nelson district, has succeeded in making a record in producing speedy and satisfactory first returns as a free-milling and concentrating gold producer. Worked for less than three months, already a first dividend of \$10,000, or 5 per cent. on a capital of \$200,000, has been declared and paid, and it is confidently expected that another will shortly follow.

#### A GOLDEN CACHE PREDICTION.

An experienced free-milling gold mine manager, who is well aware of the nature of the Golden Cache ore deposits, makes a rather noteworthy conjecture. He will not, he says, be in the least surprised—indeed he rather expects the occurrence—if at depth the ore body proves to be intermixed with loose metals, and consequently becomes a smelting ore. Of this he believes that he already notes some indications.

#### A GOLDEN CACHE FIND.

Superintendent Rives, of the Golden Cache mine, states in a letter dated Lillooet, January 21st, that a new ledge has been followed up and down, widening out to two feet, with signs of further broadening. A hole put through two feet of this quartz showed drillings averaging \$101.98 a ton. Mr. Rives thinks that the main ledge has now been struck, and that the mine will come out well. It is to be hoped that in this he may prove thoroughly correct.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA'S GREATEST MINE COMPANY

The British America Corporation has now purchased a controlling interest in the Poorman mine in addition to like interests already held in the West Le Roi and Josie and other mining rights acquired in and about Rossland, including the ownership of the Surprise, You Know, Number One, Nickel Plate, Great Western and Golden Chariot claims. Negotiations are also pending for the purchase of the Columbia and Kootenay group, and the British America corporation holds options on the Legal Tender and Darby claims. The Poorman stock was quietly bought by brokers on terms profitable to the vendors, yet highly satisfactory to the corporation. The British America Corporation also holds the surface rights of the bulk of the possible house sites on Red mountain, where some day ere long there will live a large mining population; and there is the best of reason to believe that, granted good management, the corporation will not only be by far the largest capitalized organization operating in Rossland, but also one of the most remunerative to its stockholders. The purchases made to date seem on the whole to be good in themselves and well arranged as to terms, and those who should know aver that the corporation should become a substantial dividend payer at an early date, being in this respect in marked contrast to certain notorious recent promotions made in London by loud-mouthed intermediaries of few scruples, who have relied but too successfully on enormous powers of exaggeration of the utmost mining possibilities of either wholly unproved or very slightly tested claims.

#### THE WAVERLEY.

This tremendously "boomed" Illeciliwaet mine of the Grant-Gowan combination is about to make a modest first shipment of three carloads of ore to Swansea, aggregating some 60 tons in bulk. Meanwhile five men are working at the mine, which, according to Mr. Grant-Govan, is to yield its English shareholders in the early future some £10,000 profit a week. In view of the moderate progress that is being made at the mine, the prediction, which no sane man in British Columbia ever believed—the estimate being so outrageously large—is very far indeed removed from the remotest prospect of realization. In fact, it becomes clearer than ever that Mr. Grant-Govan was, when he played the part of seer, and told of his brilliant vision of things to come, talking very much "through his hat," as men say out west. But he was fortunate in his audience, which although not composed of the marines, was largely made up of military and ex-military men, who are wont to be of simple faith, as regards mining ventures. The Waverley may turn out a fair producer; there is not the slightest evidence of any phenomenal output.

### THE GOLD FIELDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, LIMITED.

This company, which expects to ship several car-loads of ore monthly from the Waverley mine for the period during which a roughly made wagon road holds good, will, after making the first test shipment of ore to Swansea, in order to assure or reassure the English directors, forward the ore regularly to Everett for smelting. Mr. J. D. Graham is now appointed general manager of the company in British Columbia, and the hour being past of tremendous and unreliable boom estimates by the company's chief promoter, it is understood that the time has arrived for prosaic work on a moderate, but it is hoped, profit-earning scale that will appeal less to the imagination and more to the pockets of the shareholders. Another indication of this desirable change is the statement that a good concentrating plant will shortly be obtained for the treatment of the Waverley and Tangier ores.

### ATLAS COMPANY MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Atlas Mining and Development Company, Limited, which owns and operates the Monte Cristo claim, situated on Cayuse creek, Lower Arrow lake, near the town of Deer Park, was held in Rossland on January 17th. The manager's report showed that considerable progress had been made since work started on the property in October. So much had been done, that he recommended the company to apply for a Crown grant of the property. The newly elected officers are as follows: Mr. A. W. Kenning, president; Mr. A. E. Kennedy, vice-president; Mr. P. Linard, second vice-president; Mr. H. F. Mold, superintendent; Mr. John Bray, secretary-treasurer. The officers, with Messrs. J. H. Anderson and W. A. Thornton, make up the board of directors.

### BOUNDARY RAILROAD SCHEMES.

No less than four organizations are competing for state aid with a view to build a railroad to Boundary creek. These are the C. P. R., Mr. Heinze and his associates of the Columbia and Western, Mr. D. C. Corbin and the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway. The C. P. R. has surveying parties out already about Greenwood, in the Lower Arrow Lake district, and about Penticton. Mr. D. C. Corbin also desires to make Boundary from Northport, and the Columbia and Western people wish to extend their line to Boundary. Considering that the C. P. R. means business, and may soon buy out Messrs Heinze and Company's undertakings and that Mr. D. C. Corbin largely represents American interests, whilst everyone knows that the Coast Kootenay people are undoubtedly open to arrangements on terms, the prediction is not a very hazar-

dous one to make—having regard also to the C. P. R.'s manifest "pull" at Ottawa—that Canada's transcontinental road will ere long make arrangements for a Boundary Creek Extension. The Boundary country certainly cannot much longer be suffered to remain devoid of absolutely necessary rail communication. It is far too good a country to remain neglected longer, as a result of subsidy-hunting rivalries.

### TALKING TWADDLE.

The Kamloops Sentinel—its editorial mind being doubtless on vote catching intent—talks twaddle at length as to the route via Kamloops, asserting it to be the best way to the Yukon, and far superior to the coast routes, whilst fully admitting that it is at least a case of three months travel to make Dawson from Kamloops, and knowing also that if a man must go via central British Columbia, Ashcroft is a nearer and better point of supply and departure.

It will be easier, of course, when the proper season comes—now is far too early—for most Yukon travelers to set out for Dawson City by the C. P. R.'s well appointed services that will be arranged with facilities as speedy and comfortable as it is possible, between Vancouver and Dawson. Not that the MINING CRITIC advises the ordinary man to set out for the Yukon, quite the reverse. But if go he will, the C. P. R. route from Vancouver will undoubtedly be the best appointed and the easiest means of making Dawson City, and, more important still, getting away speedily. The best that can be said for the Kamloops and Ashcroft routes is that they are preferable, in the case of the very hardy traveler, to the very dangerous and, to most persons, impassable and impossible route via Edmonton. In this connection the following extract from the Revelstoke Herald may with advantage be quoted. The Herald says:

"In the issue of the Inland Sentinel published on January 14th, appeared an account of an alleged interview with Mr. J. H. McFarlane, headed "The Miner's Paradise," to be found between Kamloops and Klondyke. Mr. McFarlane denies ever having given any interview to a representative of the Sentinel, and takes considerable exception to this free use made of his name without his authority, as well as to some of the statements made in the article, particularly as the intention of its publication obviously is to boom the 'Kamloops route' to Klondike. Mr. McFarlane is emphatically of the opinion that no one but a natural born fool would ever attempt to start for Klondike by either the Ashcroft or Kamloops routes, though he considers the Ashcroft one to be all right, if the idea is to prospect in Omineca and Peace river, or north of those districts."

**THE PASSING OF A MONTANA SILVER CAMP.**

Today, says the Western Mining World, the postoffice at Lump City, Jefferson county, will be officially discontinued. A number of families reside in the town, but when the postmaster discovered that he was the only male resident of the place he felt the responsibility was too great and tendered his resignation. Thus the curtain drops upon the once thriving metropolis of Lump gulch. Three and four years ago the Lump Gulch mining district was one of the most active in the state, the little area of country about five or six miles long by four or five in width, containing an army of between 1,500 and 2,000 men delving into its treasuries of wealth. Several fortunes were taken out of its mines and a large number of leads discovered that gave promise of making that section the greatest producer of silver in the west. The veins, as a rule, are small but clearly defined, and yield high-grade silver. They more than make up in richness what they lack in size, and evidences of great ore bodies abound on every hand.

But the drop in the price of silver drove capital away even from such a high-grade silver proposition as Lump Gulch, and after a fruitless struggle on the part of prospectors and men of moderate means to develop many splendid prospects into producers the fight was given up, and but little ore is now being shipped from that section. We venture to predict that within thirty days after the passage of a free coinage law, picturesque little Lump Gulch will become the greatest theater of mining activity ever seen in the west.

It is a section literally "held up" by the unfavorable financial conditions that now dominate the country and make the operation of distinctive silver properties practically impossible. So far as its former metropolis is concerned it is but one of the many prosperous little silver cities of the west that have been outraged, strangled and killed by the monometallic Durrant that now awaits the gibbet of public opinion and the cemetery of financial crimes.

Fortunately, despite silver demonetization, there is little fear of any like result in the exceptionally rich silver regions of British Columbia, as regards any well-known camps.

**MACHINERY FOR THE CROW'S NEST MINES.**

Over \$100,000 worth of coal mining machinery, including electric coal cutting appliances, will shortly arrive at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company's mines at Coal creek, East Kootenay. The machinery is on the best modern English principles, and the purchase augurs a very energetic beginning of coal and coke outputting from the Crow's Nest mines.

**IN OLD CARIBOO.**

Although winter here interrupts considerably much of the work of the goldseekers, many operations still proceed at suitable points. Thus the Willow River Company has got into 2½ feet of hard gravel in its quest for gold, and, though the inflow of water increases, the pumps keep it well under, and good results of long and steady work are expected in the not distant future. On the old Barker claim a new shaft 64 feet deep has been sunk and a drainage drift run. After some further work the company will run for a spot hitherto neglected, which it is hoped may prove productive. The Jubilee Company has also got near bedrock, and its members expect soon to make fair pay from prospects on shallow rock down stream. Meanwhile the Big Valley Creek Company has closed down for the time being, and work is also, from shortage of water, suspended till April at Fry & Johnson's camp on Hardscrabble creek. Frank Petrin is, however, reported to have struck good pay on his claim on Dunbar flat; and from Mr. Chaldecott's claim on Lowhee creek some 40 tons of quartz are being treated by cyanide process at the Barkerville Reduction Works.

**A LAND OF CYNICS INDEED.**

Sir Somers Vine and Mr. John Lowles, M. P., recently visited Melbourne with a view to boom an undertaking of theirs, known in London as the Australian Chamber of Mines. They made, however, the great mistake of failing to put forward their proposal as a straight business aiding undertaking, and pleaded for it in terms applicable rather to a purely benevolent institution. Whereanent a Victorian critic says: "To talk of benevolent aims in Australia, perhaps the most cynical community on earth, where even the American Colporteur passes by the country, and the three card trick man earns but a miserable pittance, and where even the Israelites play second-fiddle to the canny Scotchmen is, to say the least, bad judgment and a waste of funds on the part of Messrs. Vine and Lowles in attempting to exploit the country. Klondyke would have been a more remunerative quest."

Judged by this effusion, Australia must be a hard country indeed, and almost able in this respect to give points even to the Transvaal.

**RATHER TRUE THAN POETIC.**

With proud and unaltered confidence in the Eastern districts of British Columbia as a mining region, the Kootenaian sings:—

Kootenay was Kootenay  
When Yukon was a pup,  
And Kootenay will be Kootenay still  
When Yukon's busted up.



**Mining Stock Quotations**

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

COMPANY	CAPITAL	PAR VALUE	PRICE
<b>TRAIL CREEK</b>			
R. C. Gold Fields.....	\$2,500,000	\$ 2 00	\$ 11
Beaver.....	750,000	1 00	10
Big Three.....	3,500,000	1 00	10
Bute.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Calcutan Con.....	500,000	1 00	1 1/2
California.....	2,500,000	1 00	8
Castle Queen.....	750,000	1 00	5
Centre Star.....	500,000	1 00	
Colonia.....	1,000,000	1 00	20 1/2
Commander.....	500,000	1 00	18
Crown Point.....	1,000,000	1 00	
Deer Park.....	1,000,000	1 00	12
Delaware.....	1,500,000	1 00	12
Eastern Star.....	500,000	1 00	20
Enterprise.....	1,000,000	1 00	20
Eric.....	1,000,000	1 00	04
Evening Star.....	1,000,000	1 00	9
Garbutt.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Gertrude.....	500,000	1 00	10
Golden Drip.....	500,000	1 00	
Great Western.....	1,000,000	1 00	11
Hattie Brown.....	1,000,000	1 00	4
High Ore.....	500,000	1 00	4
Imperial.....	1,000,000	1 00	05
Independent.....	1,000,000	1 00	06
Iron Horse.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Iron Mask.....	500,000	1 00	32
J. S. L.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Jose.....	700,000	1 00	42
Jumbo.....	500,000	1 00	05
Kootenai London.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
La Roi.....	500,000	5 50	9 00
Lilly May.....	1,000,000	1 00	20
Mayflower.....	1,000,000	1 00	8
Monita.....	750,000	1 00	16
Monte Cristo.....	1,000,000	1 00	23
Morning Star.....	1,000,000	1 00	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
Phoenix.....	500,000	1 00	8
Poorman.....	700,000	1 00	14
Red Mountain View.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Red Mountain.....	1,000,000	1 00	18
Roseland, Red Mtn.....	1,000,000	1 00	6
St. Elmo.....	1,000,000	1 00	8
St. Paul.....	500,000	1 00	4
Silverline.....	500,000	1 00	20
Southern C. & W. C.....	500,000	1 00	13
Virginia.....	500,000	1 00	10
War Eagle Con.....	2,000,000	1 00	28
West Le Roi.....	500,000	1 00	9
White Bear.....	2,000,000	1 00	
<b>AINSWORTH, NELSON &amp; SLOCAN</b>			
American Boy.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Fern Gold.....	2,000,000	25	59
Ibex of Slocan.....	300,000	25	25
Arlington.....	1,000,000	1 00	12
Argo.....	100,000	1 00	10
Athabasca.....	1,000,000	1 00	26
Black Hills.....	100,000	1 00	10
Buffalo of Slocan.....	150,000	25	25
Bondholder.....	1,000,000	1 00	
Alamo.....	500,000	1 00	
Canadian M. M. and S. Co.....	2,000,000	1 00	07 1/2
Columbia-Cariboo.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Cumberland.....	500,000	10 00	
Darlanelles.....	1,000,000	1 00	15
Deille.....	750,000	1 00	12
Eldon.....	1,000,000	1 00	05
Ellse.....	1,000,000	1 00	05
Ellen.....	1,000,000	1 00	07 1/2
Elkhorn.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Exchequer.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Goodenough.....	800,000	1 00	25
Gibson.....	650,000	1 00	17 1/2
Grey Eagle.....	750,000	1 00	
Hall Mines.....	350,000	31	
Idler.....	1,000,000	1 00	12 1/2
London.....	150,000	25	25
Minnesota.....	1,000,000	1 00	
Nelson-Poorman.....	250,000	25	25
Northern Light.....	250,000	1 00	16 1/2
Noble Five Co.....	1,200,000	1 00	15
Ottawa and Ivanhoe.....	1,000,000	1 00	12 1/2
Phoenix Consolidated.....	1,000,000	1 00	05
Rambler Con.....	1,000,000	1 00	38
Reco.....	1,000,000	1 00	1 70
Slocan Reciprocity.....	1,000,000	1 00	06
Slocan Star.....	500,000	50	2 30
Santa Marie.....	1,000,000	1 00	05
Sheriff.....	1,000,000	1 00	24
Silver Band.....	250,000	25	12 1/2
Slocan Queen.....	1,000,000	1 00	10
Star.....	1,000,000	1 00	05
St. Keverne.....	1,000,000	1 00	04
Sunshine.....	500,000	10 00	
Two Friends.....	240,000	30	15
Washington.....	1,000,000	1 00	25
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	\$ 10
<b>TEXADA ISLAND</b>			
Texada Proprietary.....	50,000	25	25
Van Andra.....	5,000,000	1 00	4
Victoria-Texada.....	150,000	25	25
Texada Kirk Lake.....	300,000	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	18
Mineral Creek.....	500,000	1 00	05 1/2
Mineral Hill.....	750,000	1 00	06
Quadra.....	500,000	1 00	19
<b>CARIBOO</b>			
Cariboo Gold Fields, Ltd.....	£1100,000		
Cariboo Hydraulic.....	300,000	5 00	7 00
Horsely Hydraulic.....	200,000		
Horsely Gold Mining Co.....	1,000,000	10 00	10 00
Cariboo M. & D. Co.....	300,000	1 00	25
Golden River Quesselle.....	£250,000	£1	2 50
Victoria Hydraulic.....	300,000	1 00	85
<b>LILLOOET DISTRICT</b>			
Alpha Bell.....	500,000	1 00	40
Dominion Developing.....	22,500	25	21
Excelstor.....	500,000	1 00	30
Golden Cache.....	500,000	1 00	35
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'er.....	200,000	25	35
<b>BOUNDARY</b>			
Old Ironsides.....	1,000,000	1 00	12
Golden Crown.....	2,000,000	1 00	29
Boundary Creek M. & M. Co.....	1,500,000	1 00	19
<b>CAMP MCKINNEY</b>			
Cariboo.....	500,000	1 00	51

Dividends paid to date are as follows: Le Roi, \$725,000; War Eagle (Old Company), \$217,500; Rambler-Cariboo, \$40,000; Reco, \$50,000; Slocan Star, \$350,000; Cariboo, \$189,000; Dominion Developing, \$158,158. The Hall Mines, Limited, has also paid dividends on preferred and ordinary stock.

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

Phyne.....	\$400,000	Goodenough.....	35 00
Idaho.....	240,000	Noble Five.....	50 00
Poorman.....	50,000	Northern Belle.....	20 00
Ruth.....	150,000	Antoine.....	10 00
Whitewater.....	154,000	Surprise.....	20 00
Washington.....	20,000	Monitor.....	15 00
Slocan Boy.....	25,000	Last Chance.....	50 00
		Fern.....	10 00

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**Hammered Steel Shoes and Dies**

Warranted not to clog off or batter up.  
Send for Illustrated Circulars.  
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**RAND BROTHERS**  
Stock and Mining Brokers  
REAL ESTATE AGENTS  
CAMBIE STREET VANCOUVER, B. C.

### THE PROPOSED PROVINCIAL CHAMBER OF MINES

This important mining movement is progressing most satisfactorily, as a result of the large and representative meeting held last Saturday in the Hotel Vancouver, in this city, under the presidency of Mayor Garden, with Mr. Charles Tetley acting as honorably secretary of the meeting. Mr. W. J. Waterman then explained what steps he had taken in Victoria and Vancouver as acting secretary of the endeavor, outlining also the scope of the proposed Chamber. Some objected, he said, on the ground that there was already a Government Bureau of Mines, under Mr. W. A. Carlyle. He had, however, authority to say that both the Hon. Col. Baker, as Provincial Minister of Mines, and Mr. Carlyle approved the present movement and would promote it by all means in their power, it being highly desirable to add to a competent Government Department of Mines a special Chamber voluntarily organized on absolutely non-political lines. Mr. B. Bonthrone spoke of the good work, which, like chambers of mines had done and were doing in South Africa and Western Australia, and staunchly argued that to supply the British investor with accurate information in a form needed by the English money market, a Chamber of Mines was absolutely necessary. It was assured that without a large influx of British capital British Columbia mining development must be slower than it should be, and the English moneyed men greatly needed more and more accurate information about one of the richest mineral lands on earth, of which, unfortunately, people in England still know very little. Mr. Osborne Plunkett here moved that a Chamber of Mines be established. This was supported by Messrs. De Beck and Skene, and carried with an understanding that the friendly co-operation of the Vancouver Board of Trade and other like bodies should be sought, and, if possible, obtained, although the Chamber of Mines being a Provincial institute, was and would be in no respect dependent, save for friendly co-operation, upon local bodies such as boards of trade. A committee of twelve

was then appointed to draft a proposed charter and by-laws and report to a meeting to be held on the 15th of February. The committee, which is busily at work and receiving all necessary encouragement from the right people, consists of influential and broadly representative members, its composition clearly showing that all sectionalism has been avoided. The members are: Mayor Garden and Messrs. Hamersley, Bonthrone, Taggart, Willis, Plunkett, Pellew-Harvey, Bell-Irving, J. M. MacKinnon, J. M. Buxton, and W. Gordon Ross.

### ANOTHER WHITEWATER DIVIDEND.

This noted Slovan mine company has just declared another dividend, bringing to \$154,000 the aggregate profits up to date.

### Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Texada Proprietary Gold Mines, Limited, will be held at the office of the Company, 319 Cambie Street, Vancouver, B.C., on Monday, 21st day of February, 1898, at 3 p.m.

**Business:** To receive reports of Directors and to elect Directors and Auditor for ensuing year, and any other business that may come before the meeting.

W. H. KEARY,

Secretary.

VANCOUVER, B.C., January 25th, 1898.

### Yukon Sled Manufacturing Co.,



"Improved Mascott"

McCONNELL & WEST, 34 Powell St., Vancouver  
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### 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.

## SAMSON. WATER WHEELS

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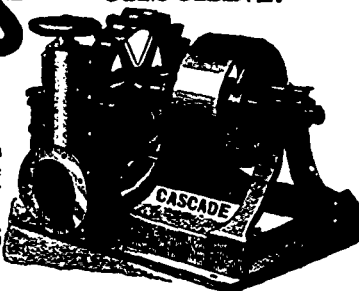
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Our experience of 36 years building water wheels enables us to suit every requirement of water power plants. We guarantee satisfaction. Send for pamphlet of either wheel and state your head and full particulars.

**AUTOMATIC STEAM ENGINES**  
WITH SUITABLE BOILERS.

Built in latest style, of best design and highest excellence. Sizes from 3 horse-power upwards. Send for Engine Pamphlet D.



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(U.S.) THOS. R. McINNIS,

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 be in 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.

## No More Blankets



If you go to the Klondyke, be sure that your outfit is light and that you have something warm to sleep in. The lightest known substance is Eiderdown. It is warmer than anything else in the world.

The "Alaska Brand" sleeping bag has double linings of Eiderdown, besides a lining of warm gray wool, and is covered on the outside with a windproof and waterproof canvas. It is warmer than whole stacks of blankets, weighs fourteen pounds, and is not injured by rain or snow.

The entire Government Expeditions were equipped with these bags.

The best houses on the coast handle this bag, every one of which is labelled with our name. If your dealer has not got them in stock and refuses to get one, send us money order for \$24.50 and we will see that one reaches you promptly without any further charge.

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MINES REPORTED ON AND MANAGED

Consulting Engineer:

Leslie Hill, C. E., A. M. I. C. E., M. F. Inst. M. E.

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**W Thos. Newman**

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

### WILL EXAMINE

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

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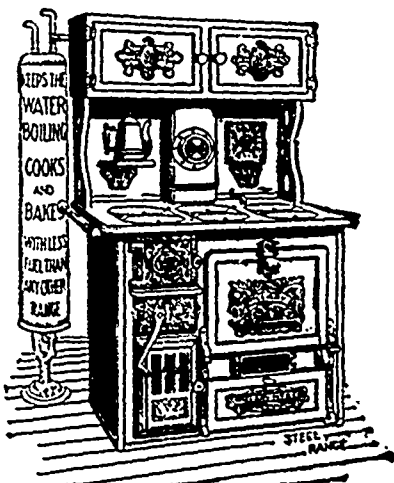
Special attention paid to Miners' and Contractors' Supplies, and we are prepared to quote prices that will interest you. If in either of these businesses let us figure with you. We can save you money. Orders by mail solicited.

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Situated in the heart of the Coast Mining District

### ✦ WAVERLY HOTEL ✦

Now opened with every comfort for mining men and sportsmen

GOLD FIELDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA CO., LD., have taken over Store, which has been re-stocked with every description of goods for mining.

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MINING, DEVELOPING  
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Is the greatest newspaper in the world. Price 5c a copy; by mail, \$2 a year.

Address THE SUN, New York.

## International Navigation and Trading Co, Limited

Steamers, "INTERNATIONAL" & "ALBERTA"  
On the Kootenay Lake and River

### — TIME CARD —

In Effect 12 July, 1897. Subject to Change Without Notice.

Five Mile Point Connection with all Passenger Trains of the N. & P. S. R. R. to and from Northport, Rossland and Spokane. 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 12:45 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

### — TIME CARD —

Trains Run on Pacific Standard Time.

Going west	Daily	Going east
Lv 8:00 a.m.	Kaslo	Ar 3:50 p.m.
" 8:30 "	South Fork	" 3:1 "
" 9:30 "	Sproule's	" 2:15 "
" 9:51 "	Wiltewater	" 2:0 "
" 10:03 "	Bear Lake	" 1:45 "
" 10:18 "	McGulgan	" 1:3 "
" 10:28 "	Junction	" 1:12 "
Ar 10:50 "	Sandon	Lv 1:00 "

### SANDON AND CODY.

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

Telegraphic Address, "Bed-rock." R. W. BRYAN, Superintendent.

## COLUMBIA & WESTERN RAILWAY CO.

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

### EASTBOUND.

No. 2 passenger (daily except Sunday)  
Leaves Rossland ..... 3:00 p.m.  
Arrives at 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)  
Leaves Trall ..... 5:45 p.m.  
Arrives in Rossland ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Connections made with all boats arriving and departing from Trall.

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

## UNION STEAMSHIP CO., OF B. C., LTD.

Head Office and Wharf, Vancouver, B. C.

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

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