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British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

WEEKLY EDITION.

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EDITORIAL.

BIG WITH PROMISES.

Lieut.-Col. Domville, M.P., the well known managing-director of a highly speculative undertaking, known in slightly abbreviated form as the Klondike-Yukon-Stewart River Co., of London, England, has just made some very remarkable statements as to the progress which his company is making and about to make, in connection with the opening up of the Skagway route to the Yukon. He promises very big things indeed, but knowing the gallant Colonel's remarkable characteristics for tall talking, we feel compelled to discount very considerably—laying this necessity to the score of the very sanguine temperament that he possesses—the exceptionally large "boom" predictions which Col. Domville makes. We shall indeed be much surprised if his Company not only builds a good long wagon road, but also erects three fine steel bridges, puts eight lake and river steamers on parts of the Skagway route; builds wharves on Lake Bennett, and circles with a short line of railway certain very dangerous intervening rapids, all in the course of the next travelling season, and moreover doing some of these things at a very early period of such season. Then, too, the Colonel declares—to cap all—that his Company will ship food enough to the Klondike next summer to keep most of its rapidly growing population. This

really sounds more than a little as though the gallant Colonel has been rather loudly "talking through his hat," as we say out West, and, we shall be greatly surprised, nay we shall be startled, if the more than double-barrelled company which the gallant Colonel represents, accomplishes next season even a modest part of the programme laid down for it by him, as quoted in another column of this issue.

If Col. Domville's company should do what he predicts, even the C.P.R. will have to take a back seat, whilst Sir William Van Horne must doff the hat in recognition of a greater railway rival.

But jocularly apart, we have not the least doubt that when the Yukon season next comes round it will be learnt that another and easier route than that via Skagway, will be satisfactorily opened by the efforts of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, and when thus opened, head off all competing modes of access.

We refer, of course, to the Vancouver, Stickine and Teslin Lake route, in regard to which the chiefs of the C.P.R. are quietly maturing their plans. They don't talk so long nor so loudly as Lieut.-Col. Domville, but they will assuredly "saw a lot more wood."

BAD NEWS FROM THE YUKON.

There is no longer any doubt that famine and sickness threaten, in the early future, several thousand gold seekers now in the Yukon country. The worst, however, will not happen until February, though already men short of food are in the British Yukon committing thefts, and on the United States side of the border, where, as usual, law and order are less effectively maintained, making more serious depredations. Fortunately, our Canadian magistracy and Police of the Klondike are likely to prove equal to the occasion. They are already not only maintaining law and order fairly, but getting some of the hardier, but at the same time ill-supplied, men of Dawson out of the Klondike by enabling and inducing them to make Fort Yukon, where provisions are more plentiful. The magistrates and police are also stated to be prepared, if necessary, to take the extreme measure of controll-

ing and "rationing out," on fair terms the available food supply of Dawson, in order to make this last out so long as it is possible by careful allotment according to individual needs. The owners of the supplies will in such case be compensated in due course by the Dominion, and as most of those aided may be expected to pay for the food allotted, the net loss of the state will not be large. It seems however certain, despite the rather optimistic views of the Hon. Mr. Sifton, that state organized relief will need, at any risk and cost, to be got right into Dawson ere the end of two months from now, unless actual starvation, accompanied no doubt by the terrible dirt and famine fever, typhus, is to ensue.

The task will be very costly and difficult, but not impossible, and it seems likely that as most of the miners in the Yukon are American citizens, the United States Government may be willing to share part of the cost of saving these men. No time, however, must be lost if effective aid is to be rendered.

Another thing now made very clear by present circumstances in the Yukon is that as mine operators will there be largely impeded by lack of an adequate food supply to sustain hard work during long hours, the 1897-8 gold yield of the country will be far less than anticipated. This will cause ruinous loss to many who have bought claims on deferred payment terms, as they will be unable to meet their instalments, and it will also cause an unexpected deficiency in the "working capital" of many of the mine workers.

Under all these circumstances it seems to us the duty of the press of British Columbia to moderate, if it can, the undue eagerness of tens of thousands of people—many of them possessed of quite inadequate physique and resources—to enter the Yukon next year in doubtful quest of fortunes hard to bear.

It is now clear as the summer sun at noonday that there will be no scope in the Yukon next year, for half, or even less than half, the expected immigration of two hundred and fifty thousand persons. Such a number of immigrants will, nevertheless, probably make for that country, although it is to be hoped that very many thousands will be wisely persuaded to stop short of their doubtful goal. There will fortunately be scope next year for a big contingent of miners and other workers in our own Province, and of this opportunity many of the more fairly and fully equipped in physique and otherwise will we trust avail themselves.

THE BRITISH MINE INVESTOR.

The success of the Fern mine and expected early success of other free milling gold companies in our province mean much to British Columbia, as nothing so largely attracts the British mining investor

as free milling gold mining. This he fairly understands, but he has yet learned too little as to the getting of gold by smelting, when the gold happens to be associated with silver and copper, or lead. It is, however, to be hoped that there may be little of such swindling of the British investor in connection with our mining development, as has made itself so notorious in the promotion in London of Western Australian gold mining companies. That there will be some such deception is inevitable, abetted as it usually is by a large contingent of unscrupulous promoters in London, whose rascality is too easily condoned by the lax social and commercial code, that too largely holds amongst the money jobbers of the British metropolis. It is not too much to say that recent experience of B. C. flotations and attempted flotations in London proves this to the hilt, that there are many company promoters in the British metropolis whom society even deems respectable, who deliberately prefer to promote a more than half swindle and almost certain fiasco as regards profit earning, when it comes to founding a mining company. They can make more profit by huge underwriting and promoting commissions, necessarily offered in such cases, than they can by strictly legitimate propositions. There are of course many honest and business like promoters of mining, as of other companies in London, but they certainly don't seem to be in anything like a majority. Again and again is a modest and deserving British Columbia venture rejected in London in favor, apparently, of others that are too usually over capitalized for the benefit of underwriting and other promoters, and are also, to put it mildly, highly speculative and hazardous as regards the investor. Happily honest papers, like such great dailies as the Times and the Daily Chronicle, are now doing much to warn the British investor from specious schemes of plunder. They have, as a result, almost killed Klondike company promotions.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Dr. W. A. Richardson, who speaks from local personal experience, accompanied by professional insight, declares that Dawson City is the filthiest hole on earth. The place will next spring be uninhabitable. Yet this was to have been the leading centre of operations for that wretched Yukon company, which two of our B.C. cabinet ministers sought to patronize, but which nevertheless died—on its demerits—still-born.

It is satisfactory to learn that an early effort by the North-West Mounted Police in the Yukon may be directed towards the expulsion from Klondike of some three hundred and fifty gamblers and other toughs, who are, by the prostitution of an honorable adjective, termed "sporting men." If these human vermin were the only persons threatened

with extinction by starvation, the world would be none the worse, but very much the better for their exit. They, however, unlike the more innocent and deserving, die hard, and it is well, therefore, to expel them ruthlessly at the earliest opportunity in order to give better folk a better chance of obtaining returns.

The C. P. R. has, it is stated, failed to make terms with Mr. Augustus Heinze for the purchase of the railroad connections owned by himself and his associates in the Trail Creek district. It is, however, safe to predict that the great company will "get there all the same," and, indeed, its directors are now preparing to extend their system to Rossland, just as a little later they will doubtless make for the Boundary country. Whether we in British Columbia like the present railroad situation or not, it is impossible to avoid its recognition. The C. P. R. is "on top," and there it will long remain; so long, in fact, as throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion the pursuit of politics continues to be mainly a question of place hunting, jobbing and contract seeking. There is talk enough and to spare anent the state ownership and management of railroads, but the very men who talk the loudest are usually ready and eager enough to vote money and other subsidies to railroad companies, and take good care to find ample excuse for avoiding the taking of any—even the slightest—opportunity for government ownership of railroads. Under these circumstances it is better for a strong and well capitalized company to command the situation than for it to be half held, but assuredly not commanded by sets of mere charter mongers, a small host of whom are clearly giving notice of their intention to apply for railroad franchises in the province.

BIG YUKON PLANS.

Lieut.-Col. Domville M. P. the managing director of the Klondike Yukon Stewart Company, has stated in the course of an interview with a representative of the Victoria Times, that his company will, when the Yukon rush begins in the spring, be in a position to carry passengers from any point in the civilized world direct to Dawson City, doubtless by arrangements made with leading trans-Atlantic steamship companies and with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company enabling booking via Vancouver. His company is, says the Colonel, now building a wagon road over the Skagway route, from Skagway to Lake Bennett. One hundred and fifty men are now at work on this road and when the colonel left about six miles had been built and graded. In the spring, anytime after February—for he says the road will be ready by then—there will be no difficulty in getting supplies in, for wagons will run

direct to Lake Bennett capable of carrying as much as 2,500 to 3,000 pounds each trip. A wharf will be built at the lake, from where four stern-wheel river steamers of a special design will run to the White Horse rapids. Here a tramway will be built around the rapids, connecting with four other steamers, specially built to pass the Five Fingers, plying between the White Horse and Dawson City. Thus it will be seen that the transportation problem will then, if the colonel be not altogether over sanguine, be completely solved and instead of wearily battling their way over the passes and down the lakes the miners who go in next year will have all the comforts of a civilized community.

The main object of Lieut.-Col. Domville's visit to Skagway was to ascertain the best trail by which to send in his supplies, as he was unwilling to send out any parties over any route before seeing it for himself. In his opinion, the bulk of those going in next spring must go over the White pass route. All are impassable save for men with packs, but taking all things into consideration the Skagway trail is, he says, the best. As regards the shortness of the route, the Dyea and Skagway trails are both alike, but it is impossible to build a railroad over the Dyea route.

Lieut.-Col. Domville's company not only intends to enter the transportation business, but will go into the mining business also, having acquired several claims. While up at Skagway the colonel bought a sack of gold from a returning miner, one of the nuggets being valued at \$583. This and several other specimen nuggets have been sent by him to the head office of the company in London, England. Another line of business upon which the company will enter will be to start stores at Dawson and other places for the sale of food, and according to Lieut.-Col. Domville there will be no talk of any shortage next season, for his company alone will take in enough provisions to supply the greater portion of the population of the interior.

The wagon road his company is making from Skagway, and over which the railway will afterwards be built, will cross the Skagway river several times, and three steel bridges are now on their way north. These with several wooden bridges will be placed in position at once. The trail, which does not follow the route used this summer, is most favorable for a railroad, for in no place is a grade of more than about three per cent. met, and in no place will a switch-back be necessary. It will follow the oed of the river most of the way. Orders for the locomotives, which will be of a special design, and for the eight river steamers, will be placed at once.

The above must be taken, of course on the "ipse dixit" of Lieut.-Col. Domville, and subject to confirmation or otherwise in the early future.

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.

THE ENTERPRISE.

This mine in Ten Mile Creek, near New Denver, has resumed operations with a staff of thirty men and the mine will this month become an active shipper with very large quantities of ore in addition to that got out.

THE IDAHO.

This Slocan mine has paid another dividend of \$30,000, making \$240,000 to date. Returns have yet to be made and received in respect of very large quantities of ore in transit to and now in course of treatment at the smelter.

THE PORCUPINE.

A half share in this Ymir mine has just been bought by Messrs Lloyd & Thompson. It lies between the noted Silver King and the Waneta. The former owners, who needed working capital, retain a half share in the property, which will now, it is stated, be vigorously developed.

THE NATIVE SILVER BELL.

This Slocan mine has not, as reported, closed down from fear of snow slide accidents. A full force was still working at time of latest reports, though it is possible that the mine may close down for a short time until the snow freezes, should snow-slide possibilities seriously threaten the workers.

THE C.P.R. AND ROSSLAND.

Sir William Van Horne states, as President of the C.P.R., that his company's negotiations with a view to purchase the Heinze railroad interests in and about the Trail Creek country have failed, the price asked in respect of the transfer being by his company regarded as excessive. The C.P.R. will itself now build to Rossland without delay, for Sir William Van Horne says:

"It is absolutely necessary that we should reach Rossland with a line of our own, and we are under a pledge to Rossland to do so. We would have preferred to purchase the Trail Creek road, which could have been adapted to our purpose by a considerable expenditure, but we could not come to terms and we are now obliged to go on with our own work."

AT WHITEWATER.

Here the Northern Belle advertises for tenders for hauling 100 tons of ore, and the Charleston and the Stranger will shortly begin rawhiding. The Whitewater mine is, however "the mine" of the camp at present, with a monthly pay roll of \$12,000, and 115 men at work. It is stated that the mine shipped, in October forty-five carloads of ore, and although full returns are not yet to hand for November, there will probably have been sixty other carloads shipped from the Whitewater during the month.

A REDUCTION IN PRICE.

The Toronto Globe is making a strong and deserving bid for circulation. Finding that the reduction in the price of paper and the introduction of typesetting machinery have made it possible to publish the paper at a less cost, the price has been reduced from \$6 per annum to \$4 per annum for the early morning edition, and the second edition has been discontinued.

This should give their circulation list a great increase, as it brings within the reach of every person a daily that is generally recognized as the leading paper in Canada. As there is to be no reduction in the size of the paper, and every department, including the Sunday illustrated edition, kept up to its present high standard, and considering the enormous expense to which goes in order to give all the news every day, \$6 was not too much for it.

At \$4 per annum its subscription list should soon reach the 50,000 mark.

IN THE SLOCAN.

Here rawhiding has begun, and with it new mines will begin shipping and old ones largely increase their shipments, as usual with the Slocan during the winter season. The Reco will be among the large shippers, whilst the Ruth will increase its output. The Ajax, the Canadian group, the American Boy, the Sovereign and others tributary to Sandon will also, it is expected, make good shipments. It is hoped that the Wonderful will also ship largely under new management. The Star and the Payne will of course be big shippers.

The Slocan mines that ship from Three Forks, the McGuigan, Whitewater and others, will also give good account of themselves. In fact, despite the fall in silver, mining is more active than ever in the Slocan, with more men at work by fifty per cent. than ever heretofore in the short history of the district. Fortunately, the better silver mines of the Slocan have the advantage over a host of those in the States in possessing big deposits of high grade ore good enough to pay substantially, despite the depreciation of silver.

THE GRANT-GOVAN OUTFIT AND THE TANGIER PROMOTION.

Under this heading the City Leader, of London, Eng., severely criticises as follows the promotion methods employed on the Tangier Mine, Limited, which like the Waverley Mine, Limited, is an off-spring of the Gold Fields of British Columbia, Limited.

Like the rest of the world we have hitherto entertained the belief that there is nothing new under the sun. We were always under the impression that there were but two ways of floating limited liability companies—either by inviting the subscriptions of the public through the press, or by circulating a prospectus privately and getting the money in that way. Though very loth to confess it, we find we are mistaken. There is another way in which a public company can be floated, but it is distinctly a new way. We will endeavor to describe the process, and in order that there may be no ambiguity—there is always a danger of this when technicalities have to be employed—the modus operandi shall be explained.

At a recent meeting there assembled together certain shareholders in two companies, the Gold Fields of British Columbia and the Waverley Mine. The real purpose of this meeting was, that the shareholders in these two companies should listen to a certain gentleman who has just returned from a far-off land, and who had in his peregrinations actually seen the property of which all those present possessed a certain portion. The name of the gentleman was Mr. Grant Govan, a distinguished pioneer of British Columbia gold mining. There was perfect silence within the four walls the whole time Mr. Govan was recounting the richness of the possessions of those before him. To judge by the words of Mr. Govan, one might readily have been excused if he had arrived at the conclusion that some day or other those present at the meeting would each and all become as rich as Cræsus, so valuable and so full of gold was the property.

At this meeting quite a novel idea in company promotion was introduced. A wonderfully rich mine, which has just been discovered or has been forgotten for generations, had by some means or other come into possession of the company calling itself the Gold Fields of British Columbia, Ltd., and the directors being men of benevolence, the shareholders of the Waverley Mines, Ltd., and in the parent company were afforded another opportunity of acquiring considerable riches, by purchasing or taking shares in this company. As a rule companies are floated either by an advertisement in the daily journals or by being privately subscribed, and it would indeed be a hard task were anyone to attempt to discover a precedent for such

an action.

There can be little or no doubt that though the meeting was held ostensibly to hear a report from Mr. E. G. Govan, the flotation of a company called the Tangier Mine, Limited, was in reality the principal business. We heard on very good authority that the capital of the company was already subscribed, and that it would not under any consideration be offered to the public. The latter statement may be and doubtless is correct, for on the top of the prospectus before us the word "Private" is printed, but we are not quite so sure as to the amount which had been subscribed. If the capital—£12,000—had been procured by private treaty, why should the shareholders of these two companies have been asked to put their money into the concern? This is most certainly a new and an exceedingly novel way of floating companies. The directors of the parent company—The Gold Fields of British Columbia—may have been actuated by motives akin to benevolence, but the inference is left that the efforts to get the capital subscribed privately had been far from successful. Mr. Govan informed those present that the prospectuses were in the room, and that any of the shareholders in the Gold Fields or the Waverley mines might be allotted whatever number of shares they applied for, and that a bonus of 25 per cent. in fully paid up shares would be given upon all allotments. The directors evidently anticipated some little difficulty in getting rid of the shares. Perhaps they were taking a leaf out of the book of their own experience, and would not risk the undertaking going to the public. Although the Waverley mine is now supposed to be a very valuable property, the public responded so badly to the issue that something like 80 per cent. of the capital was called up from the underwriters, and it is very possible that had the Tangier Mine, Limited, been floated in the ordinary way a like result would have had to be recorded. Indeed, we very much doubt, after reading through the prospectus, whether enough money could be extracted from the pockets of British investors—and their name is legion—to have enabled the company to proceed to allotment. The document is made up entirely of reports from, we presume, mining experts, and the directors have not even thought it worth while to indulge in anticipations with respect to profits. Offering the shares in Tangier Mines, Limited to the shareholders who attend a meeting to hear a report with regard to their own property, we can only regard as an ingenious device on the part of some of the directors of two companies to save money in advertising. We, however, heard of very large inducements being offered in the way of underwriting commission—larger indeed than the bonus given to the shareholders in the two companies.

GOLDEN RIVER QUESNELLE, LIMITED.

The report of the directors presented to the shareholders at the second annual ordinary general meeting of the company, states: Since the 30th June, a further sum of £5500 has been sent out, making a total to date of £44,000. The directors are assured by the engineers in charge, in a report dated 1st October last, that although the works are of a much more substantial and expensive character than originally intended, he is confident of being able to complete the whole work under the original estimate, viz., £46,000. The directors expected that the engineering works would have been completed and mining operations commenced; but a most exceptional season has interfered to prevent this being done. The prolonged heat of the weather during the summer months caused an excessive quantity of snow to be melted in the high ranges of mountains in the neighborhood of Quesnelle Lake. This, combined with an exceptionally heavy rainfall in the autumn, has been the means of keeping the water of the lake at a much higher level than in ordinary years and delaying for some three months the falling of the water in the Quesnelle River sufficiently to allow of work being commenced on the dam. The greatest advantage will be taken of the short time left before the severe weather sets in to test the richness of the river bed, but the board fear it will be the spring of next year before they will be able to prosecute regular mining operations. Mr. McGillivray has been actively engaged in making preparations to commence mining immediately the state of the water permits and also in constructing a wagon road. As this road will be of public advantage, it is hoped the government will take it over and recoup the company for its outlay.

A DOUBTFUL OFFER.

The offer of a Mr. T. C. Elgie to put up reduction works at Rossland that will treat successfully and profitably very low grade ore of \$10 a ton value in consideration of the transfer of valuable water rights in and about the city, is considered by many to be a shrewd move directed with a view to obtain all the water supply in sight for electric lighting and waterworks purposes. Mr. Elgie and his associates are, in fact, deemed to have in view rather the production of light and the supply of public water on profitable terms, than the successful prosecution of a difficult, and, as many regard it, hopeless attempt to treat \$10 ore of the Trail Creek type. Few in Rossland amongst the experts believe the thing possible with profit to the mineowner. They consider that under present circumstances it will not pay to treat \$10 ore until some new and powerful chemical method shall have been discovered.

IRISH IRON MINING.

An exchange states, that Ireland is now enjoying the unwonted excitement of a little mining boom. It is a well known fact that good iron beds were fifty years ago worked on the shores of Lough Allen, county Leitrim, and an effort is now being made to revive the industry. A smelter is in course of erection on the ground, and there is every prospect of good returns. It is proposed to use peat, of which there is an unlimited supply, as fuel, and a peat-drying and pressing plant has been laid down. The enterprise will furnish welcome employment to a large number of needy peasantry. There is limestone in abundance for smelting, and it is estimated that 30,000,000 tons of bituminous coal lie within the counties of Leitrim, Mayo, Sligo and Roscommon, in addition to the immense deposits in Kilkenny. Some years ago the copper mines of Bonmahon, county Waterford, were abandoned as unprofitable. In those days the process of treatment was as expensive as it was tedious, but with modern appliances there is no reason why the Bonmahon mines could not be worked at a respectable profit. Ore of a much lower grade would be considered very valuable even in British Columbia. Practical miners who have worked in the Waterford mines, and who are employed in the neighboring camps, verify the fact. Few things will more greatly benefit the "distressful country" than successful coal, copper and iron mining.

A THREATENED SMELTER COMBINE.

It is now stated that the many smelter proprietors, and proprietary companies of the Western States and Canada are attempting to form a solid combine to limit competition strictly and raise prices. Meanwhile mineowners are on the alert to prevent mischief, which, if the danger proves likely to be serious, the Dominion government should be able very largely to prevent by anti-combine legislation. As regards ores of the British Columbia coast, the effective competition of the Swansea smelting industrialists should in any case largely neutralize the threatened mischief, far away though the seat of that South Wales industry is. Swansea can fortunately be reached cheaply, if slowly, by ocean transport.

THE LUCKY JIM.

The Lucky Jim shipped for the week ending Nov. 23rd 470 tons of concentrating ore to the smelter at Pilot Bay, a respectable average of 67 tons a day, which, however, it is hoped to double shortly. The ore is stated to concentrate about five into one, thus producing nearly fourteen tons of high grade concentrates per diem.

THE NOBLE FIVE.

It is confidently expected that the liquidation of this mining company will result in its reconstruction and profitable working under new capital and management. The shallower pay ore bodies nearest to the surface have doubtless been largely got out, but in the opinion of those who know the mine deeper working only is needed to get out large bodies of rich ore. It is claimed that the pressure of the Bank of British North America in respect of its overdraft caused the adoption by a company of too limited capital resources of a hand to mouth policy, which has proven "penny wise and pound foolish." Mine work was too largely devoted to getting at pay ore near the surface, whereas it would have been better to sink deeper and get at richer and larger underlying deposits. It is now necessary to do this, at a time when all available funds for development work in the Noble Five treasury are exhausted and the Bank's calling in its overdraft compels liquidation. It is stated that further capital of \$100,000 at least is necessary if the noble Five is to be successfully resuscitated and converted into a permanently productive mine.

ROAD WANTED FOR EAST KOOTENAY.

The North-East Kootenay Miners' Association, of Golden, asks the Provincial Government to construct out of the usual yearly grant for improvement work in East Kootenay, the following roads, namely:

A wagon road eight miles from Carbonate to the North Fork of the Spillimachene, as that is the chief distributing centre for the McMurdo district, Middle and South Forks, Vermont and Copper Creeks; also that a special grant be made for the construction of a road up the Beaver Valley to enable the Kootenay Consolidated company to ship ore, provided the Government are satisfied that the road will be used for such purpose; also a road to the Bugaboo mine camp.

THE LILY MAY.

This Rossland mine has begun shipping, sending three carloads of ore to Trail for smelting. The shaft is not down very deep yet have reached 120 feet. The property is stated to look well. On the completion of the Northport smelter, the Lily May will probably ship to it instead of to Trail.

BOUNDARY CREEK CLAIMS SOLD.

Sales of claims are now quietly proceeding at Boundary Creek, with the result of the transfers of promising properties to men of capital. All that is now needed to make a busy mining district of Boundary is the advent of the long-needed railroad.

BRIDGE RIVER GOLD.

For some weeks past there has been a great deal of talk about the rich free-milling quartz lodes, discovered in the vicinity of Bridge River.

Last week Mr. Arthur Noel, the practical mining man of the Lillooet district, passed through Vancouver on his way home to Wisconsin. The MINING CRITIC quotes Mr. Noel as the authority for the statement that the Bridge River quartz veins will yield greater returns to the fortunate owners than has yet been realized from any mining camp in Canada, including even the Klondike. He states that the veins are a white quartz impregnated with free gold, which lie between two walls of argillaceous rock. Mr. Noel is taking a holiday, and intends visiting Montana, St. Paul, Chicago, Boston, Montreal and Toronto. On his return he will devote his entire attention to developing the properties he is interested in on Bridge River, including the Bend 'Or group.

THE SUMMIT.

The Nelson Miner states that a find of apparently remarkable richness in gold has been made by the Lindblad brothers, the owners, on their mine at Wild Horse Creek. On this, the Summit mine, the owners recently struck a six feet lead of decomposed quartz, which assayed \$2700 in gold to the ton. They soon put a force of 12 men to work and a carload of ore for mill test is being got out as rapidly as possible. The owners believe that they have a claim equal to a good one at Klondike without the terrible disadvantages of the latter as regards climate and locality, but pending mill test of an adequate quantity of the ore, no safe estimate of the true value of the Summit find can be made. The ore is stated to be honeycombed and very soft and unless generally containing gold value is practically worthless. Several somewhat similar finds of richly promising decomposed gold bearing quartz are reported at various points in the same district, as that of the Summit.

A GREAT SILVER MINE.

It is stated that the Payne mine of the Slocan, will distribute for the quarter ending Dec. 31st next, a sum of probably \$300,000 amongst its three shareholders. The Payne is by much the most profit-productive mine in B.C., the world famous Le Roi not even excepted.

THE DUNDEE.

It is hoped to ship continuously from this Rossland mine, the first shipment having been very successful. The mine officials state that the new strike of galena in the Dundee assays \$67 a ton.

MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

By W. A. CARLYLE, PROVINCIAL MINERALOGIST.

While the recent gold discoveries in British Yukon have attracted attention from all parts of the world, the attention and interest that has been aroused in the mines of British Columbia have not abated and throughout the Province, in nearly every district, prospectors, miners and capitalists are on the hunt for mining properties. Development work is in progress everywhere, with prospects of a large industry most promising.

This year there has not been that insane rush to float mining companies we saw last year, nor has there been that influx of would-be buyers anxious to get property of almost any description to dispose of by means of startling and exaggerated prospectuses among their eager public at a distance, worked up to the desire to buy almost anything offered, imbued with the true gambling spirit. Nevertheless, there has been and is now a large number of influential men in the country, backed by ample capital, who are carefully examining our mineral resources and making many purchases with this result, that far more work is now in progress and much more will be yet undertaken.

In a new mining country like this where the mining engineer or buyer is offered, along with a comparatively limited number of developed properties, a vast number of "prospects" on which little or no work has been done, where there are indications of ore deposits and veins, it is extremely puzzling to conjecture possibilities or to estimate the true values of such properties, when one remembers that beneath very insignificant or unsatisfactory surface indications such valuable mineral deposits often lie hid. The veins may be small and also the assays, but work may and often does show great development in depth, although again, fine prospects often prove most deceptive. The prices asked for prospects ran last year to ridiculously high figures, partly because such prices were in some instances paid, but this year holders of such claims have become more reasonable, although in some parts high prices are still asked for unworked and untried properties; but this feature in our mining affairs will right itself.

In lode mining the beginning dates to about ten years ago, but in reality only to about five years, and the rapid progress during the past few years is most significant, as is seen in the following table of production of the lode mines only:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|------------|
| 1887..... | \$ 17,331 | 1893..... | \$ 297,400 |
| 1888..... | 75,000 | 1894..... | 781,342 |
| 1889..... | 47,553 | 1895..... | 2,342,397 |
| 1890..... | 79,753 | 1896..... | 4,257,179 |
| 1891..... | 29,607 | 1897 (estimated) .. | 7,500,000 |
| 1892..... | 139,440 | | |

For 1897 to date the customs show ore and matter to the value of \$6,832,287 to have been produced

(see Nelson Miner, Nov. 13th), and these returns will be found to check very closely with the actual smelter returns, and as the above are only the returns from West Kootenay alone, the estimate of \$7,500,000 as the output of the lode mines will not be far from the exact smelter returns, and the total output of all the mines, coal, placer, etc., will easily reach \$10,000,000, a most gratifying increase, as can be seen by the next table of total production of all mines:

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1890..... | \$2,008,608 | 1894..... | \$1,235,717 |
| 1891..... | 3,546,702 | 1895..... | 5,635,302 |
| 1892..... | 3,037,971 | 1896..... | 7,146,425 |
| 1893..... | 3,588,413 | 1897..... | 10,000,000 |

The above figures must attract attention as they are indicative of the steady yet rapid increase in the production of our mines which altogether have produced \$10,000,000, and of the fact that British Columbia is now fast taking her place among the great mining countries.

The above figures are not large when compared with some of the other mining regions, but only six years ago the great interior of this Province was for the most part trackless, but following the discovery of gold and silver deposits in West Kootenay the opening up of this country by railroads, waterways, roads and trails, has been marvellous, and the railroads now in progress of construction or under contemplation, will open still greater areas of mineral land now lying fallow, with the certain result that mining will receive a still greater impetus, and the figures of production rise much higher. During the last few years of depression all railroad companies have had to proceed very cautiously and to curtail building new lines, but with the returning era of prosperity and a better money market these companies are preparing to extend their systems, as is exemplified in the action of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, which has now begun the construction of very important lines in the Province that will be of the greatest service not only in making accessible new districts, in reducing transport charges, but also in the establishment of large smelting and refining enterprises within our own borders, the extent and importance of which we can only now surmise.

For mining this country offers nearly all that could be wished in that the supply of water, timber, fuel, fluxes, etc., is everywhere abundant, while climatically we do not suffer from extremes in heat and cold, the long summer months being most favorable for prospecting, while the winter snows do not hinder, but in fact greatly facilitate mining operations, as for one instance the rich ores found high up many of the mountains can then be easily and cheaply rawhided down the snow trails. Centres of supply are now being established in many parts, and in these regions most difficult of access, supplies can be got at more reasonable figures.

There are many experienced miners coming in from Montana, California, Colorado, etc., and good labor at fair prices is easily obtained.

GOLD.

The great gold-producing centre in Rossland, where splendid ore bodies of profitable gold-copper smelting ore are being exposed as development work advances, and the conditions of this camp are this year much ahead of those of last year. Underground development is beginning to assume very considerable extent and importance, and as this work proceeds prospects greatly improve, leaving it simply a matter of time, work and capital when the production will be much greater. Cheaper transport and treatment charges are being provided, and awaiting such, several properties with large reserves of good ore now blocked out, are rapidly extending the opening up of these mines. In the rush of a year numerous companies with small capitals attempted to develop their claims, but the money being insufficient, these companies have been forced to suspend work and much of their property will yet be merged into stronger enterprises and then be more fully tested.

Although the Le Roi mine, which has paid to date \$675,000 in dividends, of which \$400,000 have been paid this year, has been the chief shipper, the tonnage last year of 38,000 tons has this year to date increased to 64,000, and this tonnage can be greatly increased as soon as the other properties mentioned begin shipping their reserves. The average values of Rossland ores have not been determined for over a year, but prior to that the average net values of 27,000 tons smelted gave, gold 1.67 ozs., silver 2.5 ozs., copper 2.3 per cent., value \$37.18 per ton, while 1,200 tons of the Le Roi first-class ores gave, gold 2.6 ozs., silver 1.83 ozs., copper 2.5 per cent., or \$53.05 per ton. The cost of freight and treatment varies from \$9 to \$14 per ton.

In quartz ores suitable for milling much work is now being done on quartz veins in different parts of the Province and the results are awaited with great interest. Near Nelson two mills are now in operation, and several quartz ledges are being exploited. In southern Yale, as at Camp McKinney, where the Cariboo mine has paid \$173,000, and at Fairview and other parts quartz leads are being opened up and tested, while Cayoosht Creek and Bridge River in Lillooet, East Kootenay, Alberni on Vancouver Island, the islands and coast line of the Mainland, and other parts are being equally explored, as here auriferous quartz veins have been staked off, and during the coming year definite results should be obtained. These districts are practically new, but much work is being done where two years ago not even prospectors were seen.

PLACER GOLD.

The discovery of rich placer diggings in British

Yukon, of which Mr. Ogilvie has given such decisive information, will be of vast importance to this Province in that the regions to the north of Cariboo, already famous for its gold production in the past, the mines and creeks of the Omineca, Cassiar and other districts long reported to be gold bearing but little tested, as means of ingress and transport of supplies have been so difficult, now promise to be overrun by a wave of prospectors who will search this northern country as never before. Many new trails and roads will be built by both the Dominion and Provincial Governments, and many parts never penetrated before except by fur hunters will be examined with results impossible to foretell.

In Cariboo the rich creeks so far discovered have been worked out except where large capital has been needed, and now several strong companies are at work on the gravels in the ancient river channels gradually being traced out, or in the deep buried channels of present rivers, and, as a single instance, at the Cariboo hydraulic mine, near Quesnelle Forks, a very rich and extensive gravel deposit is being laid bare, about \$375,000 having been taken out in this preparatory work. Farther north new enterprises are on foot to mine auriferous gravels, and henceforth many creeks hitherto slightly prospected will be reached by better trails and much more carefully explored.

SILVER LEAD.

The Slocan district in West Kootenay has during the past year shipped in large and small amounts from over fifty claims, and the production of \$2,000,000 in 1896 will be much exceeded in 1897. In 1896, 18,215 tons of this rich silver-bearing lead ore from the Slocan yielded net 117.4 ozs. of silver per ton and 52.7 per cent. lead, leaving a net profit of about \$75 per ton. By customs returns so far the output for this year should show much better as this year 35,000 tons have been shipped of this class of ore. Much active work is in progress and many new properties are being developed.

At Nelson the Silver King has been a large producer all the year of silver-copper ore, and in the region to the south other silver-gold mines will be soon on a paying basis, while in the Ainsworth, the Trout Lake, Lardeau and Illecilliwaet districts much new work has been done with good results. In East Kootenay the two large deposits at the North Star and the St. Eugene mines are being developed, only awaiting the approach of the railroad now being built, while other claims are being exploited.

COPPER.

Copper is being produced by the mines at Rossland, the Silver King at Nelson, and the Van Ande at Texada Island, and in the Boundary Creek district, where the large deposits of a present low grade gold-bearing copper sulphides are now being opened up, but not to that extent which will ensue if a rail-

road now being surveyed is completed. Copper deposits on the St. Mary's in East Kootenay, in Kamloops and on Vancouver Island are also being exploited, but as yet not enough work has been done to demonstrate their value, but very much interest has been attracted thither and many claims will be carefully tested, as companies have been formed for this purpose.

COAL AND COKE.

On Vancouver Island the collieries are engaged supplying a very fair demand for coal, the high quality of which is already well known, and at Comox coal from the Union mine is being coked, and the excellent coke shipped to smelting centres inland. In the Rocky Mountains, the vast deposits of coking coal in the Crow's Nest Pass are now being opened up on a large scale, as the railroad is being rapidly built, and in a short time cheap fuel and fuel will be shipped to the heart of the smelting centres of the Kootenays, and also to the great smelting centres of Montana to the south.

In the present excitement engendered by the rich gold discoveries to the north, which will be of inestimable benefit to this Province, we must not forget the greater and growing mining industry already well under way, which has been slightly outlined above. Many representatives of capital are now examining our mining properties, many of which are improving decidedly as developed. For "prospects" more reasonable prices must be asked, and as careful, legitimate mining undertakings are worked by experienced operators, the number of pay mines will certainly increase. Of course there are many here ready to "exploit" this country, but not so eager to secure a mine as to get property that they can sell, but if the public will only fight shy on general principles, of glittering prospectuses presented by companies that claim to have so much, with as yet little or no work done, and to be able to soon pay large dividends, many disappointments will be averted, "wild-cats" will have a very precarious living, and mining in British Columbia will make more substantial and permanent headway.

"DIRTY DAWSON."

The following is an extract from a letter received from Dr. W. A. Richardson, formerly resident physician of the Jubilee Hospital, Victoria, who is now at Dawson City :

"Dawson City, Sept. 26.—I cannot describe this place yet, but I can tell you that it is the dirtiest, filthiest hole that ever a man got his foot into and that next spring it will be almost uninhabitable.

Winter is coming on and we have been busy starting our log cabin. I moved on part of a lot alongside Van Milligan and Segrew. The place is a mass of tents, huts, saloons and rubbish, but we

are upon a hill near a good spring and away from the filth of the town.

Winter will soon set in, and it will be a very hard and trying one on many, and many are going to suffer a great deal from privation and famine for provisions are very scarce. Only one boat has come up so far, and that had only whiskey, tobacco and hardware.

The lies that have been told about the place are hideous, and those circulating them are deserving of hanging. They will be the cause of the greatest suffering and destitution the world has ever known.

I have sufficient grub to last me during the coming winter by exercising the greatest economy. There are some who are going down from here to meet the boats, or rather are going to try to get to where the food was left. I trust all who are short of food will be compelled to go also. The police are as short of grub as anyone, and they are not of much service, one sergeant in charge of fifteen men. There will be some sort of organization of the well disposed, and no doubt order will be maintained by that means. Mr. Constantine is down at Forty Mile Creek, 100 miles from here, and is expected back daily.

As to the mines, I cannot give you any definite information but that they are not so numerous and profitable as represented.

There has been gross exaggeration in many reports concerning them. You may tell anyone who wants my opinion that they had better keep out of this country and keep shy of any investments until next spring, when the cleanups will reveal the truth concerning them.

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 strong 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.

For our Eiderdown Cap and Hood see advertisement in next number.

Our references: The Merchants' Bank of Halifax or any wholesale dry goods house in Canada.

The Alaska Feather and Down Co., Limited

290 Guy Street, Montreal, Quebec

'Llection Time on Grosse Point.

Gen'lemens, I'm goin' tell you 'bout de lection
What happen every four year,
When de Frenchman get her coat jerk round
Ebery mans wants to give her some steer.

Now listen while I tell you
How she's happen on my place
For most people know Alex. Cedar
What haint never seen her face.

Well! de 'lection she's come on
De June de twenty-three,
And de Frenchman know by hexperience
Dat's de time for cheap wiskee.

An' all de time fore 'lection day
I don't try work my farm,
For every man I meet she say,
"Alex. took some horn."

Big John she's my neighbor,
Live right across the lot
Well, John's no fool he haint,
An' all de time watch for some pot.

Well, out come dem feller,
With lots whiskey and beer,
Dey was stop on my place,
And make lots noise with cheer.

So I's just sing out hurra for hurray,
For I can't speak Hanglish pretty well,
I don't give my politic away,
'Cause I got him for to sell.

Queer things, when 'lection tam come round,
All big mans from town know me,
But just wait till 'lection's over—
Oh, perfidy sacre!

But I like talk wid dem feller,
Dey's all so hejucate,
An' can figure on de school question
Widout der book or slate.

Bimeby I'm get so politick
I make speech on the school,
An' bote party what hear me
Say, Alex. no dam fool.

For deys boucoup of Frenchmans on Quebec,
What ain't more smart I be,
Who set on top that parlimint house
An' speak no better than me.

Bimeby de 'lection day come round,
An' I'se hitch de old grey mare,
An' pass upon dat polling place
To put my vote in dere.

An' bote party of politick
When I was come in sight
Walk up and strike me on the back—
Each tink dey have me right.

So I was walk upon dat pole,
I tink my eye both way,
Fo... man can tell which way I vote,
I don't care what he say.

Now, my hidea for politick
Is get so much you can,
For after 'lection day's gone by
You're jus' one common man.

—Captain Burk.

Cariboo Exchange Hotel

ASHGROFT, B. C.

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Mining Stock Quotations

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

| COMPANY | CAPITAL | PAR VALUE | PRICE |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------|
| TRAIL CREEK | | | |
| B. C. Gold Fields | \$2,500,000 | \$2.00 | \$11 |
| Beaver | 50,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Big Three | 3,500,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Bruce | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Bute | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 3 |
| Caladonian Con | 500,000 | 1.00 | 05 |
| California | 2,500,000 | 1.00 | 8 |
| Central Queen | 750,000 | 1.00 | 0 |
| Central Star | 750,000 | 1.00 | 0 |
| Colonia | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 21 |
| Commander | 500,000 | 1.00 | 18 |
| Crown Point | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Deer Park | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 11 |
| Delaware | 1,500,000 | 1.00 | 12 |
| Eastern Star | 500,000 | 1.00 | 20 |
| Enterprise | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 20 |
| Eric | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 01 |
| Evening Star | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 8 |
| Georgia | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 15 |
| Gertrude | 500,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Golden Drift | 500,000 | 1.00 | 11 |
| Great Western | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 11 |
| Hattie Brown | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 6 |
| High Ore | 500,000 | 1.00 | 7 |
| Imperial | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 05 |
| Independent | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 06 |
| Iron Horse | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 15 |
| Iron Musk | 500,000 | 1.00 | 31 |
| J. A. L. | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Justo | 500,000 | 1.00 | 25 |
| Junio | 500,000 | 1.00 | 05 |
| Kootena-London | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| La Roi | 500,000 | 5.00 | 30 |
| Lilly May | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 20 |
| Mayflower | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 12 |
| Mounta | 750,000 | 1.00 | 19 |
| Monte Cristo | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Morning Star | 1,500,000 | 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 | 5 |
| Palo Alto | 1,500,000 | 1.00 | 5 |
| Phoenix | 500,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Poorman | 750,000 | 1.00 | 11 |
| Poorman | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Red Mountain New | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Rosland, Red Mtn. | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 29 |
| St. Elmo | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 4 |
| St. Paul | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 8 |
| Silverline | 500,000 | 1.00 | 6 |
| Southern C. & W. C. | 500,000 | 1.00 | 20 |
| Virginia | 500,000 | 1.00 | 11 |
| War Eagle Con | 2,000,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| West Le Roi | 500,000 | 1.00 | 19 |
| White Bear | 2,000,000 | 1.00 | 11 |
| AINSWORTH, NELSON & SLOCAN | | | |
| American Boy | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 15 |
| Fern Gold | 2,000,000 | 25 | 51 |
| Hlex of Slocan | 50,000 | 25 | 25 |
| Arlington | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 13 |
| ATGO | 100,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Athabasca | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Black Hills | 100,000 | 1.00 | 21 |
| Buffalo of Slocan | 350,000 | 25 | 25 |
| Bandholder | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 04 |
| Alamo | 500,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Canadian M. M. and S. Co | 2,000,000 | 1.00 | 97 1/2 |
| Columbia-Cariboo | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 15 |
| Cumberland | 500,000 | 10.00 | 10 |
| Dardanelles | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 16 |
| Delle | 25,000 | 1.00 | 12 |
| Eldon | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 05 |
| Elise | 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 | 500,000 | 1.00 | 25 |
| Gilson | 650,000 | 1.00 | 17 1/2 |
| Grey Eagle | 750,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Hall Mines | 300,000 | 21 | 10 |
| Idler | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 12 1/2 |
| London | 150,000 | 25 | 25 |
| Minnesota | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 0 |
| Nelson-Poorman | 250,000 | 25 | 25 |
| Northern Light | 250,000 | 1.00 | 16 1/2 |
| Noble Five Con. | 1,200,000 | 1.00 | 13 |
| Ottawa and Ivanhoe | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 12 1/2 |
| Phoenix Consolidated | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 07 |
| Rambler Con. | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 32 |
| Reco | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 1 1/2 |
| Slocan Reciprocity | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 06 |
| Slocan Star | 500,000 | 50 | 2 1/2 |
| Santa Marie | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 16 |
| Sheriff | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 24 |
| Silver Hand | 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 | 06 |
| Sunshine | 500,000 | 10.00 | 0 |
| Two Friends | 240,000 | 30 | 0 |
| Washington | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 25 |
| Wonderful | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 04 |

| COMPANY | CAPITAL | PAR VALUE | PRICE |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|
| LARDEAU | | | |
| Consolidated Sable Creek Mining Co | \$1,500,000 | \$1.00 | \$1.00 |
| TEXADA ISLAND | | | |
| Texada Proprietary | 50,000 | 25 | 25 |
| Van Anda | 5,000,000 | 1.00 | 7 1/2 |
| Victoria-Texada | 150,000 | 25 | 25 |
| Texada Kirk Lake | 60,000 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Riven | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Gold Bar | 100,000 | 10 | 10 |
| VANCOUVER ISLAND | | | |
| Alberta Mountain Rese | 250,000 | 1.00 | 05 |
| Ambrizton | 500,000 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Consolidated Alberta | 5,000,000 | 1.00 | 12 |
| Mineral Creek | 600,000 | 1.00 | 05 |
| Mineral Hill | 250,000 | 1.00 | 05 |
| Quadra | 500,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| CARIBOO | | | |
| Cariboo Gold Fields, Ltd | \$100,000 | 5.00 | 10.00 |
| Cariboo Hydraulic | 500,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Horsely Hydraulic | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Horsely Gold Mining Co | 1,000,000 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Cariboo M. & D. Co | 100,000 | 1.00 | 25 |
| Golden River Quinsnell | 250,000 | 25 | 25 |
| Victoria Hydraulic | 300,000 | 1.00 | 85 |
| LILLOOET DISTRICT | | | |
| Alpha Bell | 500,000 | 1.00 | 50 |
| Dominion Developing | 275,000 | 25 | 25 |
| Excelsior | 500,000 | 1.00 | 30 |
| Golden Cache | 500,000 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Lillobet Gold Reefs | 250,000 | 25 | 25 |
| Chycoosh Creek Mines | 500,000 | 1.00 | 50 |
| FAIRVIEW CAMP | | | |
| Tin Horn | 200,000 | 25 | 0 |
| Winches et | 250,000 | 25 | 25 |
| BOUNDARY | | | |
| Old Transides | 1,000,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| Golden Crown | 250,000 | 1.00 | 20 |
| Boundary Creek M. & M. Co. | 1,500,000 | 1.00 | 10 |
| CAMP MCKINNEY | | | |
| Cariboo | \$100,000 | 1.00 | 50 |

Dividends paid to date are as follows: Le Roi, \$65,000; War Eagle (Old Company), \$21,500; Rambler-Cariboo, \$11,000; Reco, \$15,000; Slocan Star, \$5,000; Cariboo, \$15,000; Dominion Developing, \$15,000.

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

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------------|-----|
| Payne | \$100,000 | Goodenough | 500 |
| Idaho | 200,000 | Noble Five | 500 |
| Poorman | 50,000 | Northern Belle | 200 |
| Ruth | 50,000 | Antoine | 100 |
| Whitewater | 50,000 | Surprise | 200 |
| Washington | 200,000 | Monitor | 100 |
| Slocan Boy | 25,000 | Last Chance | 500 |

THE RECORD MOUNTAIN.

The land between the Record and Sophie mountains in the Trail Creek district has until lately been thought valueless as a precious metal producer. The ledges running chiefly to white iron and pyrites, with here and there a trace of gold and sometimes very scanty deposits of silver. On some parts of the inter-mountain land in question promising copper-gold deposits have lately been found, and the Rosland Times states that the Umatilla group on Record Mountain, is now showing remarkably well. On the Bamock, one of the claims in the group, a shaft is down forty feet and at that depth \$77 ore has, it is stated, been found. Should this showing continue over a large body of ore and also at greater depth, the case of the Umatilla group will lead to renewed activity on and about Record Mountain, where lately many claims have been either abandoned or all but abandoned, though a number have this year been relocated.

FREE MINERS' CERTIFICATES.

If Allowed to Lapse Mineral Properties Will Not Be Forfeited.

The Minister of Mines has issued an order which will be hailed as a boon by prospectors and claim owners throughout the Province. It provides that the lapse of a free miner's certificate shall not entail the forfeiture of any mineral property owned by the holder of such certificate. The following conditions are imposed upon any mining company or individual who shall omit to renew its or his certificate on the date of its expiration.

Forthwith upon ascertaining the expiry of the certificate to obtain a new one; to file with the recorder and post in the recorder's office a notice of intention to apply for relief; within thirty days of such filing, transmit to the Minister of Mines the following documents and fee:

A statutory declaration setting forth the circumstances of such omission, with full particulars of the mining properties held by the applicant which would be affected with forfeiture.

A certificate under the hand of the gold commissioner or mining recorder of each division wherein any of the said properties is situate that notice has been posted, and that no records (other than those mentioned in the said certificate, if any) adverse to the applicant's interest in the said properties have been made by him during the time in which the said applicant was not in possession of a valid existing free miner's certificate.

A declaration by the applicant or his agent duly cognizant of the location on the ground of the applicant's properties, and the other facts affecting the case; that he has searched the records of claims recorded during the interval the applicant was in default, and that such claims do not (except as may be therein stated) conflict with or overlap any of the properties of the applicant,

The sum of five dollars.

The Minister of Mines may thereupon give instructions for the alteration of the date of the applicant's free miner's certificate so as to conform with the date of the expiration of the lapsed certificate, and may also give instructions for such amendment to be made to the records affected as may be considered requisite, and any such relief may be partial as to properties in respect whereof relief is given, so as to save adverse rights acquired during default of the applicant.

This very desirable change will put an end to much threatened claim jumping.

EXTENSIVE WORK AT THE LE ROI.

The main shaft of the Le Roi mine is now being extended to the 700 ft. level, a work which will be completed about the end of January. The extended shaft will then be the deepest vertical opening in the Rossland Camp.

LE ROI SMELTER.

The Northport smelter is now under roof, and practically finished, with the exception of the calcine furnaces. It will start up some time before the Company's present contract with the Trail smelter is completed, and the Le Roi will then treat all its ore at the Northport smelter. It will be remembered that the erection of this smelter to treat Rossland ores on the other side of the international boundary line at Northport caused the now lapsed agitation in favor of an export duty on Canadian precious metal ore.

TO STOP BOGUS LOCATIONS.

The Golden Era says: "We are glad to hear from Mr. Griffith, our Gold Commissioner, that he is determined to stop as far as possible the practice of bogus locations, and no consideration whatever shown to people who have been making a practice of staking ground and keeping it idle, re-staking it from time to time in the names of other persons so as to enable them to hold it year after year without development. This sort of thing has been the curse of the mining industry and ought to be stopped.

BOUGHT FROM THE SHERIFF.

Mr. J. McCreath, of the Hamilton-Rossland Gold Mining Co., has bought out at a sheriff's sale five claims on Ford Mountain, near Nelson, and known as the Delight, Woodstock, Calgary, Balmoral and Atlantic. Some \$3,000 have been expended on the property, and the purchaser believes that he has bought solid value. Some of the surface ore from the group has, it is stated, assayed up to \$60 a ton.

NANAIMO'S FOREIGN COAL SHIPMENTS.

The foreign coal shipments of the Nanaimo district amounted in November to 57,962 tons, as compared with 50,907 tons in September. Nearly all went to California, though a few shipments in all were sent to points in Washington State and one small shipment to Portland Oregon. There was also a shipment of 1,413 tons to Honolulu.

Mines and Prospects**W Thos. Newman**

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

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YUKON PLACER GROUND.

In the Engineering and Mining Journal is an interesting article by Henry Bratnober, an associate of the Rothschilds in mining matters, who recently returned from the Yukon. He writes: I have just returned from the Klondike gold fields, where I found a very good placer mining district. The formation of the country where the gold is deposited seems to be mica-schist that is streaked with quartz, which all carries a little gold, and it looks as though the gold was ground out of the formation by glacial action. The gold-bearing quartz seems to lie in this schist, and it is all of very low grade. This formation, as far as I was able to investigate, seems to be about 10 to 15 miles in width. On either side of this there seems to be a blocky diorite, which carries considerable quartz, and there are quartz veins running through it in every direction, but of no value. The country is covered with moss, and frozen to bedrock, and no one knows how far beyond. There is very little wash, and especially on El Dorado creek, where the glacier mud seems to have been frozen, and is found almost to bedrock. In sinking to bedrock the shafts pass through this frozen dirt, and

IN MANY INSTANCES

blue ice is found two and three feet thick in strata immediately above the bedrock. In some places it is found near the surface. It is difficult and almost impossible to drift this ground in the summer season, as even by close timbering the thawing of the ice will cause the shaft to cave in. The method of working in the winter is the same as that used in Siberia, where the ground is frozen at a great depth. Fires are built underground, where they carry abreast of 30 to 40 feet wide, and one burning along this length will thaw in about six or eight inches. The thawed dirt is then taken out and another fire is built. By this method they seem to get along very well. It is the usual custom to have two shafts, unconnected, so that while they are working in one shaft the fire will be burning in another, so that the work of extracting the earth may be continuously prosecuted. There will be a great deal of activity and a large amount of work done on the Bonanza and El Dorado creek this winter. Most of the ground is worked on what they call a "lay"—that is, the owner or owners of a claim 500 feet long give a party of two or three a lease of a piece of ground to drift out, the persons who work the ground to receive one-half of the gold taken out. On the richer claims it is often drifted out for 40 per cent. of the yield. Nearly all the claims are worked under this method of leasing. Some of them are leased in sections to different parties, and the owner sits around watching the different sets of men working out the ground. By this system a great deal of Bonanza and El Dorado creeks will be

drifted out this winter. As some of these claims will have four or five sets of men working upon them, their output will be large next year. The dirt taken out will be washed in May, June and July. There are very few summer diggings where they can shovel into sluices; therefore, there will be but little gold taken out aside from the drifting process.

SOME OF THE CLAIMS

are very rich, and will average \$1 to \$1.50 to the pan; that is to say where the bedrock is shaley. They take this up for nearly three feet in depth. Where there are no quartz stringers in the schist the bedrock seems to be decomposed and is quite soft, such claims are not of much value, except that they about pay wages. The ground is very spotted. In some instances there are rich spots where \$40 or \$50 to a pan have been obtained, but these are only phenomenal instances. We hear a great deal about them, but we never hear anything about the poor claims. But on the whole consider the placers as very good diggings, and a good many fortunes will be made. I estimate the output for 1898 will be in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000. Of course this will depend somewhat on the success of the prospectors this winter. The country will be well prospected between now and next January, which is the best time for that kind of work. It is almost impossible to get around in the hills in the summer on account of moss and swamp and the difficulty of taking along supplies. Horses cannot be used and the prospector can only go so far as he is able personally to carry his provisions. There is very little feed or grass to be had for animals of any kind. There was more feed on the Dalton trail than in any other part of the country that I travelled through. The farther north one goes the less grass is found. There is an ample supply of men there to do all the work that can be furnished this winter, indeed there will probably be some who will find it difficult to get work. Provisions will be scarce, but I do not think there will be any starvation. It will always be a difficult matter to supply that country with provisions by river transportation, as the seasons are so very short and the river in many places very shallow. It is only light draft steamers that can get to Dawson, and, on account of the passes, there is difficulty in bring supplies down the river.

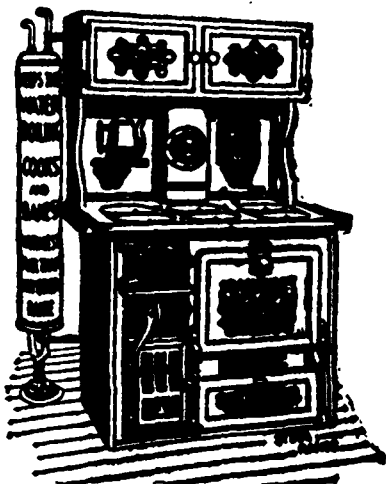
HYDRAULIC MINING

on the Klondike is impossible on account of the frozen nature of the country. Quartz mining will also be impossible, unless the veins are very rich. Labor will also be very high, and another great drawback is the fact that all the creeks freeze up solid in the winter, and there is no running water to be found anywhere. Fuel costs \$19 a cord, and labor is \$15 a day, and not very good labor at that.

I would advise only very robust men to attempt to go into that country, and even then they should be somewhat used to that rough kind of life. I have no doubt but that other paying gulches will be discovered this winter, and for many winters to come. I travelled over three hundred miles from salt water to the Yukon River, and there is gold to be found over the entire distance. This indicates that there is a large gold-bearing country, not only in the North-West Territories but in Alaska as well. So no one need be in a great rush for fear that they will get left. There is enough country to last for years to meet the desires of all who wish to go there and prospect.

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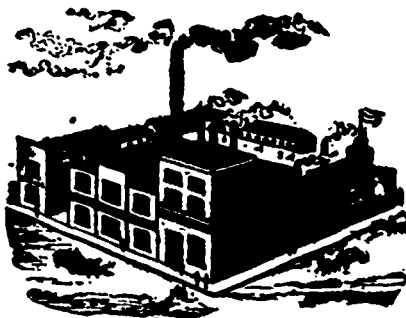
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| " 9:36 " | Sproule's | " 2:15 " | " 11:35 " | |
| " 9:51 " | Whitewater | " 2:00 " | " 11:40 " | |
| " 10:03 " | Bear Lake | " 1:45 " | " 11:45 " | |
| " 10:18 " | McGuigan | " 1:30 " | " 11:50 " | |
| " 10:28 " | Junction | " 1:15 " | " 11:55 " | |
| Ar 10:50 " | S | " 1:00 " | Lv 1:00 " | |
| SASQUOON VALLEY. | | | | |
| Lv 11:00 a.m. | Sandon | Ar 1:15 p.m. | | |
| Ar 11:20 " | Cody | Lv 11:25 a.m. | | |
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| | | |
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| | Arrives at Trail | 3:50 p.m. |
| No. 4 passenger (daily) | Leaves Rosslund | 11:30 a.m. |
| | Arrives at Trail | 12:00 a.m. |
| No. 6 passenger (daily except Sunday) | Leaves Rosslund | 7:06 a.m. |
| | Arrives at Trail | 7:59 a.m. |

WESTBOUND.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| No. 3 passenger (daily except Sunday) | Leaves Trail | 8:15 a.m. |
| | Arrives in Rosslund | 9:30 a.m. |
| No. 1 passenger (daily) | Leaves Trail | 12:51 p.m. |
| | Arrives in Rosslund | 1:31 p.m. |
| No. 5 passenger (daily except Sunday) | Leaves Trail | 5:45 p.m. |
| | Arrives in Rosslund | 7:00 p.m. |

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