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British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

British Columbia Mining Critic.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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PARTLY TRUE.

The "British Columbia Review," of London, England, speaks to the following purport about mine company proposals and promotions of a doubtful sort, which hitherto have in England been far too many, and done—as they are still doing—much to retard the development of provincial mining enterprise as a result of an adequate influx of British capital.

"The samples of British Columbia mineral properties which have been offered in this market have in a large number of cases been mere shoddy, and among those few which have been sold how many have been honestly worth the money paid for them? In this mart, where the nations of the world are clamoring to sell their wares, sentiment has been permitted to influence business, and our colonies have been favored sometimes unduly. The confidence of the British investor was rudely shaken in regard to Westralia, and this lesson has not been forgot-British Columbia had nearly everything in its favor when it came on the market: it possessed a few shipping mines developed with local capital (Spokane is not far from Kootenay); fortune had favored it with great natural advantages as regards climate, water communication,

size and extent of ore bodies, timber, game, etc.; it has found favor in the eyes of shrewd American investors and the purse strings of Europe were inclined to loosen. A little money was invested, more or less tentatively, and of the results practically nothing is known. indulge in Utopian forecasts, as usual, but the public waits in vain to ascertain facts. What is being done on these properties—are there no mine managers? If there is no return on an investment it is at least some satisfaction to know hew the money has been spent. The Government officials have done little or nothing to make known the resources of their province, and yet they hope to compete in this great market with established goldfields which spare no time or trouble in order to give the public the most complete and reliable information regarding their progress. This selfish and short-sighted policy would almost lead one to believe that those in whose hands the fortunes of the province mainly rest have no belief in its future, and are too busy lining their own pockets at the expense of our ill-informed public."

It is, however, equally true that much of the evil whereof the Review complains is directly due to the exceedingly low tone of business morality which now too largely prevails amongst English financiers who promote mining companies. Only too many of them, of whom apparently leading men on the London Stock Exchange think no worse by reason of this, would rather make larger profits illegitimately by foisting on the British public very doubtful and over-capitalised B. C. mining schemes, than make legitimately a really sufficient profit return by aiding the development of really good claims purchased, not, it is true, "for a mere song," but for fair and moderate values.

Our English critics may therefore, whilst legitimately criticising the shortcomings of British Columbians, look nearer home also and ask whether it is not a fact that too many English mine company promoters are sadly wanting in scruple. It is an open secret here in B. C. that it is often easier in London to dispose for doubtful or at least but little tested classes than

to sell at a modest price a realy promising mine property. In this respect it is generally asserted that American capitalists interested in mining compare favorably with British promoting intermediaries, taken as a class. However, as the heading of these comments of ours indicates, we admit that so far as it goes, the quoted criticism of the British Columbia Review is very largely accurate.

VANCOUVER'S SMELTING PRO-JECT.

The City Council of the City of Vancouver has, subject to the necessary confirmation of its action by the many by-law voters, agreed to accept the smelter offer of the Rothschild Syndicate, of London, England. Hence, if the latter succeed in their endeavor to establish for smelting business purposes a bona fide joint stock company in London, based on English lines and capitalised in an adequate sum, probably representing at least £250,000, the City purposes to take stock in the concern to an extent equivalent to \$65,000, or about £13,200. The stock to be subscribed by the City constitutes a modest proportion of the total necessary capital of a big smelter company, but its chief value to the promoters doubtless consists in the fact that it pledges a great and growing commercial community to aid to the utmost of its ability in its corporate capacity as a municipality, the metallurgic undertaking which it is now proposed to establish.

The city is in one respect acting more wisely than in like, if larger, cases does either the Provincial or the Dominion government, in that the aid which it is to accord a business enterprise that should prove of great value to the community, as also of profit to its participants, is conditional on a pro rata participation, on safe lines of strictly limited liability, in the gains of the enterprise. There is accordingly secured a direct monetary "quid pro quo," public assistance being given on strictly business terms that should prove of mutual advantage.

It is, however, morally incumbent on the civic authorities—this being also a necessary safeguard of the proposed municipal investment—to ascertain that when the joint stock company in which Vancouver is to participate, is placed before the British investor, it shall not be on lines of excessive capitalisation or other wrongful con-

ditions, jeopardising either reasonable dividend earning capacity or successful management, though the projectors of the enterprise may rightly be treated as prospective earners of a reasonable profit return for their work in making useful and necessary preliminary contracts and other arrangements in connection with the proposed company. This is of course a matter of some delicacy which calls for careful consideration on business lines, involving the taking of broad and reasonable views of the interests of all parties.

Subject to this, there is much to be said in favor of the proposed agreement, provided that it duly results in the establishment of a 300 ton smelter on Burrard Inlet, at a point fairly beyond but not too far beyond the city limits. If to the proposed smelter a small refinery be added as intended, so much the better.

It is well for the industry to be located beyond the city at some point of little present cultivation and small population in view of the probability that however carefully managed the smelter may be, its fumes may prove somewhat harmful to neighboring vegetation and surrounding residential amenity. Such drawbacks are more or less inevitable present accompaniments of large manufacturing extension, but it is just as well that their effects upon the pleasantness of residential life in favored Vancouver be for a time at least minimised, especially as haply some day in the not distant future, improved chemical and mechanical skill may wholly solve the problem of noxious smoke and fume prevention.

And though the smelter will doubtless be placed beyond the city, yet within the legally necessary five mile radius, it should prove, for most practical purposes, as profitable to Vancouver as if its site were found within the city, since it can easily be so placed as to make the concern and its workers subsidiary to and dependent on Vancouver for supplies and otherwise.

It is true that the motive power and some of the other appliances proposed to be used in the works are somewhat novel in their proposed application to ore smelting, but as the care of this matter is stated to be placed in the very capable hands of Messrs. Bewicke, Moreing & Co., the eminent mechanical engineers, we are of opinion that cheap and efficient methods are practically certain of choice.

It may also be urged as an objection to the general principle that the smelter offers a greater

capacity than available Coast and Gulf Island mines and claims can supply with ore, since at present these do not in the aggregate put forth on an average per diem more than a fraction of 300 tons of ore, and it is also certain that the proposed smelter to be established up country in connection with the C.P.R will absorb most of the available supply of suitable Koctenay ore. This is true as things stand. But so great are in our opinion the gradually developing mineral resources of Alberni and certain other Vancouver Island points, of Texada Island, of the North Coast, of the Harrison and Pitt Lake districts, and some points quite near to Vancouver, that these will, cheap and convenient smelter facilities being afforded on Vancouver's water front, surely increase their present yields enormously in the course of a twelve-month ere which time it is unlikely that the proposed smelter will be got into full working order. And we suppose that even if a daily quota of half the extreme weekly capacity of the smelter were available in copper-gold and silver-lead ores, the industry could with prudent management be successfully and profitably conducted. If this be so, it is surely not unreasonable to expect that probably nearly a score of Coast and Island mines that should before the end of 1898 prove fairly regular shippers, will together supply a weekly quota of from 1000 to 1200 tons to a Vancouver smelter. Hence, all things considered, provided that the proposed company be formed on straight and businesslike lines, under a capable and well informed directorate including skilled metallorgists, we deem legitimate and well advised the proposed moderate participation of the City of Vancouver in an industrial development of almost vital importance to our Coast and the fair and productive isles adjacent. A strong smelter company capitalised as proposed in \$250,000, of which most should represent eash or eash liability, ought to do great things for this section of the Province.

THE POPULAR HARRY.

Harry Lindley and his comedy company are here, and those who doubt it have only to visit Dunn Hall but once to prove it. He is playing to full houses every evening, and to obtain seats it is necessary to be on deck on time sharp. The name of Harry Lindley is too well known in the East to require more than a mere mention that he is holding forth in Vancouver to draw big houses. Notwithstanding that other attractions have been on The Harry Lindley Comedy Company have been greeted by crowded houses each evening, and many people who have not been in the habit of attending shows for years have availed themselves of this opportunity of having a good laugh and an evening's genuine fun. Would it not be a good scheme for the Council to make some proposal to keep the company here permanently, instead of granting a license to other more unworthy and incompetent parties. A move of this kind would certainly be in the right direction, and in the interest of the city, as well as an assurance to those who patronize such that they would get their money's worth, and no josh, and would, we are sure, meet with the approbation and good will of all our citizons.

THE LATEST DIVIDEND-PAYING MINES.

The last dividend paid by the Calumet & Heela Mining Company, of Michigan, U. S. A., making its total distribution 850,850,000, is worthy of special mention for the passing of the half-hundred mark in millions The Consolidated California and Virginia, on the Comstock Lode paid \$77,608,800, but besides this quondam possessor of the "Big Bonanza" there is no record of any mining company returning to its shareholders so much money as the Calumet & Hecla has done. In the United States, the Ontario has paid \$13,545,000, and the Granite Mountain \$12,120 000. There are no others with records of wore than \$10,-000,000. In Australia the Broken Hill Proprietary Company has a record of £6,992,000, or £8,736,000, including shares of subsidiary companies which have been distributed; and the Mount Morgan one of £4,400,000. The shareholders in El Callao, of Colombia, have received \$9.665 440. The Robinson, in South Africa, has paid £1,642,499 (up to the end of 1896), and the De Beers' giamond mines £8,194,143 since the consondation, white several of the compames which entered this union had paid large dividends before it was effected. The Rio Tinto copper mines of Spain Lave yielded their present owners £5,757.500 (from 1878 to 1896, both years inclusive); how much the ancients got out of them we have no means of knowing.

In referring to the above mines as being the largest dividend payers, we do not lose sight of the great bonanzas of Mex' wand South America-Guanajnato, Zacatecas, Pachuca, Cerro de Fasco, Potosi and many others-of which the production was huge and the profit must have been enormous. The Spanish king received a fifth of the product as his royalty, and the adventurers, many of them at least, became rich. But of all this we have no definite records. Nor have we of many other famous mines of which the exploitation began long ago, like the mmes of Laurium and Almaden, or those of Harz and the Erzgebirge. Certain of these mines have been worked with fair continuity for nearly 900 years, and a small dividend per annum for many years may exceed a large one for a few years. The Calumet & Hecla; however, has had the good fortune to pay a large dividend for a good many years already, and the end is not yet in sight —New York Engineering and Mining Journal.

TO THE POINT.

Quoth the Fort Steele Prospector, noting an oft stated abuse and apparently suggesting an apt remedy that will hold the hard working prospector harmless: "We observe that some of our contemporaries in West Kootenay have fallen in with Professor Carlyle's proposal that before a mineral location is allowed to be recorded \$100 worth of assessment work should be completed. The objection to this proposal is that it would discourage prospecting. The prospector is a most useful factor in the initial development of any mineral region; without his efforts progress must be very slow, and if all he does is to hunt up locations, he has done a service that is worthy of substantial reward. That he should have a year in which to try to induce some one else with more capital than he to go on and do the work, is not too much-it is indeed an encouragement that is in the hignest degree worth the bestowal. The real objection to the system as it is now worked is that original locations are relocated from year to year by being changed from one free miner to another, with the object of avoiding the outby or labor of assessment work. The intention of a very useful and proper provision of the mining law is thus defeated; a remedy should be applied. And the remedy is one found easily at hand. It is simply that of making assessment work a necessity before re-locations can be recorded."

ANOTHER GOLD-MINING MAYOR.

Seattle is about to lose the more or less valuable services of its Mayor, a Mr. Wood, now absent without formal leave in the Cloudyke, and thus about to vacate his office. And now the rival Washington State City of Tacoma learns that on the expiry of his present term of office its Mayor, Mr. Fawcett, will also go gold mining in Canala, but not in the Cloudyke. He will make, it is said, for new gold fields in the Edmonton district of Alberta.

ALIEN LABOR TROUBLE.

The Crow's Nest contractors under the C.P.R. at Godfrey's camp have had serious trouble with their Canadian employees as to the rate of wages involved under their contracts, and susperceded large numbers of them by importing Italian cheap workers of a low type. The affair is most unfortunate and the C. P. R. should certainly see to a satisfactory righting of it, more especially as it would appear that there has been a breach of the Alien Labor Act.

ALPHA BELL GOLD QUARTZ MIN ING COMPANY.

Development on the Lillooet free milling gold group of claims is progressing favorably on Cayoosh Creek. Samples of rock just to hand from the tunnel on the surprise claim, where they are working at present, have been assayed by Mr. J. A. Macfarlane, F.C.S., and show a value of \$1022.44 per ton.

A telegram received in Vancouver on Tuesday last from Mr. W. F. Gibson, the company's foreman, who has just returned to Lillooet from the Ida May and Homestake claims on Cadwallader creek (the newly acquired property of the company) reads as follows: Ida May showing up splendidly. Stripping shows free gold everywhere. Work progressing steadily and satisfactorilly. Rock by express."

The company has a pack train of 11 horses taking in supplies to the Ida May before the snow flies, so that work may be prosecuted vigorously through the winter.

RECOMMENDED FOR ACCEP-TANCE.

The Vancouver City Council has resolved to recommend to the taxpavers for acceptance the smelter proposal of the Rothschild syndicate, of London, England, here at present represented by Mr. Symons, Q.C. The company is to erect within five miles of Vancouver a smelter of 300 or 350 tons daily espacity. A small refining plant will probably also be added, and the company will no doubt provide for the smelting of both silverlead and copper-gold ores. It is stated that electric power will probably be obtained from Seymour creek and that progress will be made on actual construction by June 1st next at the latest, by a company expending at least \$750,000 on the works and plant. The city taxpavers are in encouragement of the enterprise to take \$65,000 worth of stock in the smelter. The provisional acceptance of the offer means that the English offer of the Rothschild syndicate is preferred to the proposal of Mr. Remington, of the well known smelter of Salt Lake City.

THE MORNING GLORY.

The stamp mill on this Vernon claim will it is expected, be running ere the end of the month.

A LARGE ORE SPECIMEN.

Mr. A. H. Kelley lately brought into Nelson the largest specimen of ore ever seen there. It weighed over 3000 pounds. It was from the Dandy mine, owned by Mr. Kelley, on Toad mountain, and ran on an average \$80 in gold, silver and copper. The ledge from which it was taken is over five feet in width.

STOCK QUOTATIONS.

Corrected Weekly by Percy W. Charleson, Mining Brok 447 Hastings St., Vancouver,

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Companies.	No. of Shares,	PAR VALUE	Patce
TRAIL CREEK.			
Alberta	1,000,000	\$ 1 00 1 00	₹ 0 8 10
B. C. Gold Flehls Beaver	2,500,000 750,000	2 00	11
Beaver	1,000,000 3,500,000	100	}
Blueblid	600,000	1 00	10
Burte Caledonian Con	1, 90,000	1 (0)	11.
California	2.500,000	1 00	8
Cettle Queen	750,000 500,000	1 (0)	71.
Colonus	1,000,000 500,000	1 (8)	18
Crown Point	1,000,000	1 (0	
Della Colla Delaware	1,000,000	1 00	2
Eastern Star Enterprise	500,000	1 00	20
Eric Evening Star	1,000,000	100	Öi
Georgia Gertrade	1.000,000	1 0.0	1012
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Northern Belle	1, 44/100	1 (4)	
Palo A'to	1,000,000 1,000,000	1 00	10 ~
Phtenix Poorman	200,000 90,000	1 00	11
R. E. Lee. Red Mountain View. Red Point.	1. 50	100	
Rochester	1,000,0 is 500,000	1 (0)	10
Rochester Rossland Star Rossland, Red M't'n.	1,000,000	1 10)	
St. Elmo St. Paul Silverine	1,000,000	1 00	: 8
Southern C. & W. C.	5(10),(100) 5(10),(100)	1 (5)	23.0
Sultann. Trail Mining Co	252,000	100 (0)	
Union Virginia War Engle Con West La Bai	699,099 590,040 2,009,000	1 (6)	11
West Le Roi White Bear	5/00,000)	1 (0	31
Young British Am.	2,000,000 1,000,000	1 00	11 06
AINSWORTH.			
Delile Ellen	700,000 1,000,000	1 00 1 00	12 07;4
BOUNDARY	j		
Old Ironsides	1.000.000	1 90	8
CAMP MCKINNEY Cariboo.	890,000	1 00	54
CAMP FAIR VIEW.	,		
Occidental	600,000	1 00	3
NELSON. Exchequer	1,000,000	1 00	10
Hall Mines	3 0,000	£i öö	
NORTHPORT.	1,000,0	₹1 00	10
SLOCAN.	(00)	``	
AthabaseaAlamo	1,000,000 500,000	1 (1	32
Bon Diable Bondholder	75,000 1,000,000	1 00	1 00
Cumberland	150.000 500,000	1 00 35 10 00	25
Durdenelles Frey Eugledler	750,000	1 00	15
Kootenay-Columbia	1,000,000] 400	100 00	10

Companies.	No. of Shares	PAR VALUE	PRICE
Noble Five Con Rambler Con	1,2-90,000 1,000,000 1,000,000 1,000,000 500,000 1,000,000 1,000,000	1 00 1 00 50 10 00 1 00	2148 1240 1240 1250
Texada Proprietary Van Anda Victoria-Texada	1,000,000 5,000,000 6,000,000	1 00	
ALBERNI DIST, Alberni M'un Rose, Alberni Con, Mineral Ureek, Mineral Hill. Quadra.	250,000 1,000,000 500,000 750,000 500,000	1 00 1 00 1 00	19 0614 05
CARIBOO Cariboo Gold Fields Cariboo Hydrautic, columbia & Cariboo Horsefly Hydrautic, Horsefly Gold M, Co Slough Creek	£500,000 389,000 1,000,000 290,000 1,000,000 500,000	5 00 1 00 10 00	1 150
LILLOOET DIST. Golden Cache Lillooet Gold Reefs, Domai Development Alpha Bell	500,000 200,000 90,000 500,000	1 00	1 75 25 70
Cayoosh Creek Mines B. C. Mining Pros- pectors' Exchange, Excelsior		25	25

Dividends paid to date are as follows: Le Rob. \$65,000; War Eagle (Old Company), \$217,500; Rambler-Carlboo, \$40,000; keco. \$150,000; Shecan Star, \$350,000; Carlboo, \$150,000.

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

Payne	00 Goodenough\$35,000
Idaho 152.	00 Noble Five 50,000
Poorman 50c	00 Northern Belle., 20,000
Ruth 50,6	00 Antoine 10,000
Whitewater 40,	
Washington . 20.0	00 Monitor 15,000
Slocan Boy. 25.	00 Last Chance 50,000

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HACKS ON STAND DAY AND NIGHT Corner of Cordova and Abbott Streets ... Niand Tel, 240 Niable Tel, 226 KLONDIKE FEVER IN AUSTRIA.

A Colossal Swindle in Connection with it Involving the Aristocracy and Old Family Names.

The gold mining craze has extended to Austria, and from Vienna comes the news of a colossal swindle in connection therewith, in which many of the grandest names of Hungary and of Austria are involved. The stories about Klondike excited so much interest and enthusiasm on the banks of the Danube that a number of promoters, with more brains than scruples, decided that it would be a pity not to take advantage thereof, and accordingly organized a joint stock company with a capital of several millions of dollars for the purpose of working the Fortuna gold mine in Transylvania. The shares were soon in such great demand as to rise to an almost incredible promium, and the promoters seemed to have experienced no difficulty whatsoever in securing the names of some of the leading and most influential nobles of the dual Empire to figure on the Board of Directors.

In course of time the inevitable collapse of the scheme took place, the authorities intervened, and the fact has now been brought to light that there is no such gold mine as the Fortuna in existence, and that there is indeed no gold at all, nor any kind of precious metal in that particular portion of the province in which the mining property was alteged to have been located.

CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

Criminal proceedings have now been instituted by the Government against all the promoters of the concern, and incidentally against the titled directors as well, on the ground that the general public would not have invested money in such a wild-cat scheme had the names of these nobles not been considered as a guarantee of good faith.

Among those who are called upon thus to answer criminal charges in connection with the affair are Count Geza Festeticz and Prince Edward Batthiany, vice-president of the Imperial Yacht Club of Austria, and one of the stewards of the English Jockey Club. Both the Prince and the Count declare that while they invested money in the concern, and permitted in consequence thereof their names to be used as directors, they never attended any meetings of the Board of Management, and are entirely ignorant, and consequently innocent of the dishonesty of the latter-the disbonesty consisting in the fact that every vestige of the subscribed capital has melted away, and that there is absolutely nothing, save some office fixtures, to show for it.

SOME FAMILY HISTORY.

It is scarcely necessary to add that the money has left Austria for foreign parts, probably for America, in the hands of the promoters, who are of course far beyond the reach of the police.

Prince Batthiany is a widower, his wife having been an English Jewess of humble birth, but who in her youth had been celebrated for extraordinary beauty. The latter first of all attracted the attention of the Austrian banker, Ba on Tedesco, who married her and took her to Vienna. After a few years of wedded life with this clever financier, who knew so little about. Ilterature that one day, whea the name of Shakespeare was mentioned in his presence, he asked "where the gentleman fived," she deserted him in order to take up her residence with Prince Batthiany, whereupon the banker divorced her.

As soon as the decree was granted she became the wife of Prince Batthiany, although the latter was twelve years her junior. Unfortunately the Prince's affection for her did not survive the loss of her beauty through age and infirmity, and husband and wife saw but little of one another during the last ten or fifteen years of her life.

HE IS A GAY PRINCE.

The Prince, like his father, the late Prince Gustave, who only died about twelve years ago, has had his name connected with those of several disreputable members of the fair sex in England, and it is possible some may recall the action which he was compelled to take in the latter part of the eighties against a dame of the name of Smith, who had been his father's affinity, the object of the law suit being to compel her to surrender a number of valuable deeds, bonds and jewels which she had illegally retained under the pretence that they had been presented to her by her aged lover.

A year ago Prince Edward Batthiany placed an extraordihary slight upon the Crown Princess Stephanie, the cause of which has never been explained to this day. It was at Cowes during the race week and the yacht which he had then bore the name of "Stephanie," in honor of the Crown Princess. Suddenly in the middle of the week and without giving the slightest reason for his extraordinary action he scratched the yacht for all the races in which she had been entered, and sold her for a mere song to a Frenchman on the condition that he should take her away at once. What rendered this proceeding so peculiar and so marked was the fact that the Crown Princess was at Cowes at the time, and he had been one of the warn:est and most intimate friends of her husband.

ONE OF THE GRANDEES.

As regards the House of Festiticzs, it is one of the grandest of the Hungarian aristocracy, its chief, Count Tassilo, being married to that sister of the late

Duke of Hamilton, whose first husband was the now reigning Duke of Monaco. Count Geza is a cousin of Tassilo and one of the members of the "Table of Magnates." which is the official title of the Hungarian House of Lords. No one dreams for a moment that either the Count or the Prince will be subjected to any legal penulty for permitting the association of their name with this unfortunate enterprise. But it cannot be desied that the mere fact of their having been mixed up in the matter will have the effect of leaving in the eyes of the people a sad stain on their family escutcheon, since naturally those who have lost their money in the concern will always look upon the two noblemen as more or less morally responsible for the swindle.—Marquise de Fontenov.

A BOARD OF TRADE RESOLVE.

The Vancouver Board of Trade has, by a small vote of 5 to 3, passed a resolution in favor of the grant by the City Licensing Board of a music hall license. Mr. Bell-Irving, the mover, urged that this be done, as a necessary attraction for prospectors and miners. The Board meeting was small, but the discussion animated.

THE BEND OR GROUP.

Mr. J. M. Mackinnon, well known in connection with the Golden Cache, the Oro Fino group and other large mine undertakings, has with Mr. Robertson and other considerable Vancouver investors, purchased for \$25,000 the Bend Or group of free milling gold claims on Cadwallader Creek. Bridge River, Lillooet. The purchasers will themselves develop and fully prove the property ere asking the public to subscribe to any issue of stock on joint stock company lines.

AN AWKWARD CONTROVERSY.

It is reported that a mining dispute altogether new in the Rossland camp has arisen between the Centre Star and Iron Mask companies over the posession of an important vein lying near the boundary line between the two claims. Both properties were located under the old law, which confers a title to all minerals found in any vein, the apex of which lies within the c.aim. The vein in question outcrops very near to the boundary line and then dips into the fron Mask ground. The point in dispute is as to whether the apex of the vein lies within the Iron Mask or Centre Star claim. A decision on this point will carry with it the undisputed title to the ledge at whatever dip it may extend. The controversy was raised when the Iron Mask miners, in sinking a winze from their main tunnel, came into a cross-cut being driven by the Centre Star people to tap the same lead.

AT DAWSON CITY.

It is abundantly clear that very short rations, if not something approaching famine, will this winter prevail at Dawson in the Yukon. Thither, however, 2000 men are still making -without present hope of getting to the place-via Skagway and Dyea. Snow lies deep on the hills and mountain passes, and there is dire suffering.

A BIG ROAD ENDEAVOR.

That the C. P. R. emphatically means business in pushing construction on the Crow's Nest is shown by facts, of which the following is a notable example, given on authority of the Nelson Miner:

"W. H. Armstrong left with a party for Movie Lake last Wednesday and will at once commence the construction of a wagon road from that point to the foot of Kootenay Lake, a distance of about 60 miles. A force of about 300 men will be employed, and it is hoped to have the road completed within forty days. The completion of this work will give a continuous road of easy grades from Kootenay Lake to McLeod to be used for the transportation of supplies and material to the men at work along the line of the Crow's Nest road."

GOLD FIELDS IN WHATCOM.

There seem to be some finds of rich gold ledges in Whatcom County, Washington, a few miles below the B.C. border. But they are usually situated in high and almost inaccessible places and will cost enormous sums to work. It therefore seems doubtfu' if more . an a very few will ever become paying Meanwhile the Seattle Postmines. Intelligencer, as usual and regardless of results, booms the region for more than it is worth. It, however, compares well with the Clondyke in one respect, as the disappointed prospector or miner can return to agricultural civilization by a few hours walk through rather rough mountain and hill side forest land. So he need neither starve nor freeze in quest of a far distant Eldorado.

FRIENDS OF THE MINERS.

A year ago this time the Toronto morning papers were ablaze with mining activity in north-west Ontario and British Columbia.

To-day the news columns of these papers evince only the most casual interest in the mining activity of Canada outside the Yukon.

There is ten, yes twenty, times more actual mining being done in Canada than there was twelve months ago, but the reader would never think so if he contrasted the anathy of the Toronto morning papers to-day with their conspicuous interest in the industry a year ago.

L'The Toronto morning papers would

not be criticised if they had not insisted upon being regarded as true patriots.

When their pages were crowded with mining advertisements and a lot of jawbone miners were picking the pockets of the castern public with delusive writeups, these journals talked about their great service to the mining industry, Their services to the mining industry are soon told. They allowed, if they did not assist, people to throw away f: 'akes a great deal of money, that if properly used would have served to develop the country and return dividends to its sorrowing losers.-Toronto Telegram.

IN GOOD HANDS.

The Rio Tinto Copper Mining Company of England, which owns in Spain, the greatest copper property in the world, is also the real owner of the most valuable group of mines on Pyramid Creek, in this district, says the Fort Steele Prospector, of East Kootenay. The claims number fourteen in all, and on several of them good development work has been done. At one place there is a dump of silver-copper ore valued at \$5,000, and forty men are now at work. Next year a six drill air compressor is to be put in, and preparations are already being made to receive it. The camp on Pyramid Creek is properly tributary to Fort Steele, but on account of the trai up St. Mary's river being practically in passable for packs, nearly all supplies have been taken in via Pilot Bay trail.

HYDRAULIC MINING AT NELSON

The company that has taken the lease of the hydraulic gold claims on Forty-Nine Mile Creek, just above the Nelson Hydraulic Company's property, evidently means business, says a Nelson despatch. Ten feet of the shaft have been sunk in an effort to reach bedrock. Mr. Bennet believes that bedrock will be reached in fifty feet, and a big clean up may be made. It will, however, take at least six weeks to get down to bedrock. At present some water is being encountered. but this will be disposed of by baling. The fall of the creek is about ten per cent., and it is the intention of the new company to start in 500 feet below, if necessary, and drift up to the main shaft for the purpose of drainin. Mr. Bennet is of opinion that bedrock has never been reached at Forty Nine Mile Creek, and that the Nelson Hydraulic and other companies have been working rim rock.

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Moodyville and North Vancouver Ferry-Leaves Moodyville: 8, 9:15, 10:45 12, noon, 2, 4 and 5:45 p.m. Leaves Vancouver: 8:35, 10, 11:20, 1.15 p.m., 3:15, 5:15 and 6:2; Calling at North Vancouver each way, excepting the noon trip.

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ALBERNI.

Alberni — Steamboat communication with Victoria and by stage with Nanaimo.

Barclay Sound—Forty miles from Alberni; communication by steamer with Victoria.

CARIBOO.

Barkerville—Two hundred and eighty five miles from Ashcroft. See stage lines. Bonaparte—Six miles from Ashcroft; stage from Ashcroft.

Big Bar-Stage from Ashcroft.

Clinton—Thirty two miles from Ashcroft station; stage from Ashcroft.

Fort George-Nearest station, Ques-

Horsefly—Nearest postoffice, 150 Mile House; stage from Ashcroft; change at 150 Mile House.

Lac La Hache—One hundred miles from Ashcroft; on stage line from Ashcroft to Barkerville.

Lillooet—Weekly stage from Ashcroft. Lightning Creek—Between Quesnelle and Barkerville; by stage to Stanley.

One Hundred Mile House-Stage from Ashcroft.

One Hundred and Fifty Mile House— Stage from Ashcroft.

Quesnelle—Two hundred and twenty five miles from Ashcroft; stage from Ashcroft.

Quesnelle Forks—Stage from Ashcroft Soda Creek—Stage from Ashcroft.

Stanley-Stage from Ashcroft.

Slough Creek—Stage from Ashcroft.

Tatla Lake—Stage from Ashcroft,
changing at Soda Creek.

Willow River—Stage from Ashcroft. Williams Creek—At Barkerville.

CASSIAR.

Dease Creek— McDame Creek—

COAL CENTRES.

Crow's Nest Pass-

Nanaimo-From Victoria, all rail, 83 miles. Steamer from Vancouver.

Union-

Wellington—From Victoria, all rail, 83 miles. Steamer and rail from Vancou-

EAST KOOTENAY.

Cranbrook—Nearest railway station Goldon. Communication by steamer from Goldon to Windermere, thence by stage:

Fairmont Springs — Nearest railway station, Golden. Steamer to Winder mere, thence by stage.

Fort Steele—Steamer and road from Golden. Steamer from Jennings, Montana, G.N.R.R.

Galbraith Ferry-Steamer from Golden. Stage in winter.

Gulena—Nearest railway station, Golden, thence by steamer. Stage in winter-Golden—On main line C.P.R., 475 miles from Vancouver.

LILLOOET.

Bridge River, Cayuse Creek, Fraser River.

YALE.

Boundary Creek — Nearest railway station on the S. & O.R., Okanagan Landing, thence by steamer to Penticton, and on by stage three times a week from Penticton and six times a week to Marcus.

Fairview Camp — Communication by boat from Okanagan Landing to Pentic ton, thence by stage.

Kettle River—Steamer from Okanagan Landing to Penticton, thence by stage.

Midway—Rail from Sicamous to Okanagan Landing, steamer to Penticton and on by stage.

Okanagan Mission—Rail from Sicamous to Vernon, thence by stage or by steamer from Okanagan Landing to Kelowna, thence by livery.

Osoyoos-Rail to Okanagan Landing, steamer to Penticton, and thence by stage.

Rock Creek—Rail to Okanagan Landing, steamer to Penticton, and thence by stage.

Yale—Nicola Lake stage from Spence's Bridge and Kamloops, 50 miles.

Any of these points may be reached by rail from Spokane to Marcus, and thence by stage six times a week.

Moyle River-From Fort Steele 25 miles.

McMurdo District—Steamer and trail from Golden, 35 miles.

Perry Creek-Steamer from Golden to Fort Steele; thence by road.

St. Mary's—From Fort Steele, 20 miles by trail.

Thunder Hill—From Golden 115 miles. Steamer in summer; stage in winter.

Windermere—Steamer from Golden. Stage in winter.

Wild Horse Creek—From Fort Steele two miles trail to Kootenay river.

WEST KOOTENAY.

Ainsworth—Twenty eight miles from Nelson and 12 from Kaslo. Steamer communication.

Albert Canyon—A station on the C.P. R., 400 miles from Vancouver.

Arrowhead-Rail from Revelstoke.

Big Bend District—Fifty miles from Revelstoke by rail and boat.

Cariboo Creek-Steamer from Nakusp, 10 miles.

Comaplix and Thomson's Landing-Steamer from Arrowhead, 10 miles.

Ferguson--Steamer and stage from Arrowhead.

Fort Sheppard — Nearest postoffice Trail Creek; communication by trail and steamer, and rail from Arrowhead.

Illecilliwaet -On the main line C.P.R., 407 iniles from Vancouver, 213 miles from Galgary.

Kaslo City—From Nelson, 35 miles; communication by steamer and rail from Nakusp.

Lardo-Duncan—Steamer from Kasio to head of lake; thence river trail 40 miles.

Nakusp—Northwest terminus of Nakusp & Slocan railway, 50 miles from Revelstoke. Steamer communication from Arrowhead tri-weekly.

Nelson—Thirty miles from Robson; is the eastern terminus of the Columbia & Western railway; also of the Spokane & Northern railway. Steamer from Arrowhead to Robson; thence by rail to Nelson.

New Denver—Rail and steamer from Revelstoke and rail from Nakusp; all rail from Kaslo. Distance from Revelstoke, 78 miles; from Kaslo. 28 miles.

Pilot Bay-From Kaslo 18 miles; thence by steamer.

Revelstoke-On mai: line C.P.R., 379 miles from Vancouver.

Rossland-Seven miles from Trail by rail or road and all rail from Spokane.

Sproat's Landing—From Revelstoke 150 miles, and one and one-half miles from Robson.

Springer Creek and South Slocan Camps—From New Denver by steamer 20 miles.

Sandon and Cody Creek—All rail from 20 miles. Steamer and rail from Revelstoke via Nakusp and Three Forks. Distance from Three Forks four and one half miles.

St. Mary's country - Steamer from Kaslo or Nelson to Davie Townsite, thence rail.

Three Forks.—Steamer from Revelstoke to Nakusp, thence rail; from Kaşlo all rail. Distance from Revelstoke 82 miles.

Trail—Rail from Spokane to Northport, thence steamer. Rail from Revelstoke to Arrowhead, thence steamer; rail and steamer from Nelson; from Revelstoke 150 miles; from Nelson 50 miles.

Trout Lake City—Steamer and stage from Revelstoke.

BRITISH COLUMBIA STAGES.

Aggassiz to Harrison Hot Springs, 5 p.m., daily.

Ashcroft station to Hat Creek, Cache Creek and Clinton, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5.30 a.m.; 83 Mile House, 108 Mile House, Lac La Hache, 150 Mile House, Soda Creek, Quesnelle, Alexan dria, Monday and Friday at 5.30 a.m., to Barkerville, Van Winkle, Cottonwood to Quesnelle Forks and Keithly Creek, alternate Mondays at 5.30 a.m.; Horsefly, Chilcoton, Monday at 5.30 a.m.; to Lillooet and Pavillon, Monday at 5.30 a.m.

Clinton to Lillooet and Pavilion, Thursday, 5 a.m.

Duncau's Station to Cowichan Lake, Friday, 11 a.m.

Golden to Galena, Columbia Valley, Windermere, Wild Horse, Thunder Hill, Fort Steele, Fairmont Springs and St. Eugene Mission every Tuesday.

Kamloops to Rockford, Quilchens, Nicola Lake, Coutiee and Lower Nicola, Monday, 6 a.m.

Lower Nicola to Granite Creek and Princeton, Friday a. m., on arrival of stage from Spence's Bridge.

Nanaimo to Nanoose Bav, French Creek, Parksville, Errington, Vacrat, Tuesday and Friday 1 p.m.

Penticton to Fairview, Osove s. B.C., Oro, Loomistown, Conconulty, as a Ruby City, Wash., on arrival of steam Okanagan Landing, due Monda . Nednesday and Friday.

Pentieton to Camp McKinney Rock Creek, Boundary Falls, 5 1 ay. Kettle River and Grand Forks, The sday, Thursday and Saturday at 7 a.m.

Spence's Bridge to 22 Mile i meet Lower Nicola, Contlee, Nicola Lane, Quilchena, Douglas Lake, Rockfood and Stump Lake, Thursday, 7 a.m.

Vancouner to Eburne, Terra Nova. Lulu Island and Steveston, dairy, except Sanday, at 2.45 p.m.

Vernon to Okanagan Mission and Colowna, Tuesday, Thursday and Satore v at S a.....

Vernon to Lumby, Monday, We isday and Friday at 8 a.m.

Grand Forks to Midway, Bours ev Falls, Greenwood, Carson and Marcos, Wash., daily except Sunday.

A TRAVELLING CRITIC.

The round the world travelling co . is spondent of the Manchester Vicini Wimes speaks very pleasantly of View at and Vancouver, through which he passed on his return journey to 1...ia . making only the briefest stay in cach city. He declares that the peo, ic wi Victoria, as a result of the Ciondylogold discoveries, hope to see that was grow to a second Johannesberg, as event which he thinks may come to pass. 1, c correspondent adds, however, that in competition for front rank, as a supply centre for the Clondyke, Vancouver should by reason of rail advantages uitimately take first place, with Victoria second, and Seattle, so long as Canada imposes duties, third. If, however, sheer misrepresentation can accomplish their purpose, the traders of Seattle will maintain their present preeminence.

THE EXCELSION.

On this promising free milling mine in the Lillooet district a 125 feet tunnel has been run disclosing rock containing much visible free milling gold. The directors are now placing 25,000 shares in the market with a view to running a second and lower tunnel.

THE CENTAUR GROUP.

It is stated that the Channe Gold Mining Company has this season done much good development work on the Centaur group of claims in the East Kootenay country. The properties run specially high in copper and assay returns are stated to have shown values up to \$250 a ton, most however running between \$25 and \$50.

OUEEN BESS GROUP.

Tais group of Slocan mines has been be dee a C. K. Milbourne for \$1.0,000, \$1,000 of which are to be payable in each

KASLO SHIPMENTS.

The statement previously forwarded of these shipments for September, as it would appear, under estimated them. Their vame was \$317,837, and not \$293,-

ROSSLAND SHIPMENTS.

The latest weekly shipments from Rossland total again a moderate aggregate, of 1295 tons. The Le Roi contributes 1200 tons, the Iron Mask 75, and the Cliff 20 tons.

DISCREDITED.

The Fort Steele Prospector doubts the report that the North Ster mine has been sold to an English syndicate for \$1,060,000. If the mine is so rich as generally stated, the purchase money mentioned seems rather moderate.

A SATISFACTORY CONVICTION.

One condition of Vancouver city aid to the smelter refinery to be established on Burrard Inlet, is that neither Chinese nor Japanese cheap labor shall thereat be employed in supersession of the Britisn worker. This is as it should be.

A NEW COMPANY.

Another well capitalised English company has been formed to develop gold mining in BC., the Canadian Mining Syndicate, Limited, capitalised in £50,-000. The English head office is at Hudderslield. Yorkshire, the chief office in this Province being located at Vancouver.

THE MONEY SPINNER.

On this mine, on Fire Mountain, near Harrison Lake, a large deposit of very easily workable free milling gold is reported. A tunnel is now in 100 feet and winze down 40 feet. Much visible free gold is reported and the directorate expects excellent results from the first milling, which will take place probably in December, a stamp mill being now in course of erection. It is stated that the ore vein has here been traced for a full length of 1500 superficial feet. There are other promising gold claims at Fire Lake in the same district and it is expected that there will ere long be quite a busy little mining camp on Fire Mountain. Until development is well advanced work in general must however be largely suspended in winter, as some of the claims are at an altitude of 8000 feet and far above the snow line.

THE POORMAN MINE.

Some very rich specimens of gold bearing ore from this Nelson mine are now on view in Vancouver. In it Mr. W. T. Wulffesohn, of the German Consulate, is reported to have secured a controlling interest for himself and associates.

THE ORPHAN BOY.

The purchasers of the Haskins and other controlling interests in this wellknown free-milling gold claim have induced the aggrieved stockholders of the original company to abandon their civil action against Haskins and others. It is stated on good authority that on the formation of a new company with further capital, the interests of the old stockholders, who were so utterly disregarded by Haskins, will receive ample compensation, fully paid stock in the new company being granted them. An amicable settlement is likely thus to be made by buyers who mean thus to prove their bona fides in the matter, and it is freely stated that the persons most concerned are now quite happy. It is consequently to be hoped that a claim on which little satisfactory development work was done in the past may in the early future be worked to good advan-

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AN EXPLORER'S CLONDYKE GOLD QUEST.

Mr. Harry de Windt, the well known English explorer of Siberia and North Alaska, had recently much to say to a London Mining Journal representative as to his proposed expedition of next spring. It will be noticed that he proposes to make for the Yukon via Vanconver. Another point a little curious is Mr. de Windt's apparent impression that the Yukon country is in Alaska, political geography being seemingly not a very strong point with him, unless he uses the term "Alaska" as a geographical expression, knowing that part of the land he thus styles is within the boundary of Canada. However, he means to do the right thing and set out from the most convenient point, Vancouver. Fortunately, too, Mr. de Windt has fewer illusions about the Clondyke than most mon, having been there and acquired much information on the spot. Journal speaks as follows,

Mr. Harry de Windt, the well known traveller, who returned to England some months ago from Alaska and Behring Sea, leaves England in October on a lecturing tour in the United States. At the conclusion of his visit to America he will return to England, in order to make preparations for an expedition to Clondyke next spring. Speaking to a representative of Renter's agency, Mr. de Windt said: "My expedition, which has been in contemplation ever since the commencement of the gold rush, will leave Vancouver in March, and will include two Alaskan miners, who are well acquainted with the country, an English mining engineer, two other officers and myself. I intended to return to Alaska in any case. I left a portion of my outfit there during my journey from the Siberian coast and Behring Straits last year, for I was then assured, and proved for myself, that gold existed in large quantities in the neighborhood of Forty-Mile City. Despite the undoubtedly exaggerated stories one hears on all sides, I fully believe in the future of Alaska as a gold producing country. The authentic information I have received during the past year from the heart of the country strengthens me in this belief." Mr. de Windt proceeded to give some interesting information concerning Clondyke itself. He said: "I reached Clondyke in the middle of June last on my land journey from New York to Paris, which had so disastrous an ending on the Siberian shores of Behring Straits. The place which everyone is talking of to-day was then a village of about 30 log bouses known as Thron-Daik, meaning 'plenty of fish.' No one thought much of the place then, though gold was known to exist. Circl: City was then the miner's Eldorado, but it is now almosf descried. I remember Cloudyke chiefly on account of the square meal we expected to get there. We had been 24 hours

out from Juneau, and being at the end of our food supply were eagerly looking forward to the line salmon which are to be found in plenty at Cloudyke. We were disappointed, however, as the salmon run had not commenced, and on the following day we found even Forty-Mile City in a state of semi-tarvation. Cloudyke was the first Indian virlage of any importance that we had passed since leaving Juneau. The few log houses which formed the village fronted the Yukon River on the left bank of the tributary. Dawson City, which now stands on the left bank of the Cloadyke, did not then exist. The only people about were Indians. They looked prosperous, and were, for a wonder, civil. I remember the stream at Clondyke was so strong that although we tried hard to make the landing stage we were swept past it like a piece of cork. As the place is at least 600 miles from the head of navigation this will convey some idea of the force of the Yukon current. Besides its fish Cloudyke is noted for its huge mosquitos, which, the miners declare, bite at both ends." Regarding the journey to Clondyk, Mr. de Windt says: "Anyone would be mad to attempt to go there before next spring. A good road will then probably be open through one of the passes I see are being opened up. Much has been said in favor of the Stickeen route, but, anyhow, next May will probably see an open road into the country. At present none really exists. I should certainly never recommend any one to try the Chilkoot, which would be looked upon as a dangerous peak in Switzer. land. In shape the Chilkoot somewhat resembles the Matterhorn-a succession of ice slopes followed by a sheer rock of 1000 feet high to the summit. Dense snow-storms render the ascent dangerous at any time, and it is quite impossible to get over from September until April without serious risk. As to the sea route, it is only open three months of the year on account of the ice. In 1896 three or four steamers carried mails and passengers to St. Michael, a voyage of about 18 days, frequently prolonged to a month by fogs and the violent storms so prevalent in Behring Sea. The latter is the 'bete noire' of mariners, and many vessels are annually lost there. The steamers to St. Michael are dirty, always overcrowded, and often unseaworthy. I certainly do not recommend the sea route, which (to say nothing of danger and discomfort) is nearly 3000 miles longer than any other. Regarding the necessary outfit, furs are an absolute necessity. They need not be expensive. Sheepskins will do as well as anything else. Plenty of thick woollen undeclothing is also needed, and two or three stout homespun suits. Long rubber boots and mocassins are also essential, and a small cooking stove, and above all a good supply of mosquito netting, which are not procurable in Alaska. Outiits are best procured at Juneau, where there are

men who understand the business, and nothing else. Of stores you can only take tea, bacon, beans and flour. The Alaskan 'slap jack' made from the latter answers to the Australian damper. Tobacco is the only luxury allowable, for in outfitting it must be remembered that every onnce tells, and that in many cases you will have to carry everything yourself. Roughly speaking, it will cost about £150 to get from London to Clondyke. This should include outfit and stores, but no one should arrive at the place itself without at least an additional £200, for provisions are at famine prices, and will probably be so all next summer."

SOME EAST KOOTENAY PROPER-TIES.

A winter camp is to be established on the Mitchell-Innes claim on Horse Thief creek and active development work prosecuted. A surface assay is stated to have shown \$30.13 in gold, silver and copper, the last metal predominating. The Channe Co. is meanwhile pushing work on the Centaur claim, Fifteen Mile creek, but Mr. Watelet, the manager of the Bugasoo creek groupe of claims has closed down work for the winter, after making a trial shipment of the ore. The East Kootenay Miner also says, speaking of the Mercler group, Bugaboo Creek:

"Telesphore Mercier, has come down from Bugaboo Creek with his men, having completed development work on the group of claims owned by him and the Golden & Fort Steele Development Co. Several open cuts have been made and a tunnel has been driven 22 feet on the big galena lead. A large quartz and copper ledge has also been opened up and Mr. Mercier reports that he has now fully 150 tons of ore on the dump and that with four men and proper appliances for furnishing timber, he would undertake to take out per day 20 tons of ore that could be handled at a profit. He brought down with him some splendid samples, also some 1000 lbs. of ore in sacks. This ore will be shipped shortl; for the purpose of a smelter test made. The properties are situated on the divide between East and West Kootenay and within comparatively easy reach of the Duncan river, which is soon to be opened to navigation.

THE REPORTED LE ROI SALE.

Colonel Peyton, of the LeRoi, denies the report that any negotiations are pending to sell the Le Roi mine, as previously stated in many quarters, for \$3,500.000 or any other sum. The directors' visit to London, England, is, he states, due to other considerations. Many however believe nevertheless that something important is about to happen to the Le Roi. Its directors are not likely to go to London for nothing.

H. C. Ludorf.

Π. De Keyser Verbiest.

De Keyser's Placer Amalgamator Manufacturing Company

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MINES GENERALLY

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A HAZARDOUS VENTURE.

A man named Arthur Jordan, of Sandon, recently formed a party which he has contracted to guide from Ashcroft to Clondyke within 60 days, despite the stress of wintry weather that has already set in even to the south of the Yukon. As to the hazards of the venture, an experienced old Cariboo miner, one Jack Kavanagh, of Barkerville, however, writes to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer a most emphatic warning to the following effect:

"The trail is open and good most of the way from Quesnelle to Hazleton, but from Hazleton to Telegraph Creek the old telegraph trail has been unused for many years and is absolutely impassable for pack trains until thousands of dohars worth of work has been done upon it. No move has yet been made by the government or individuals to cut out this portion of the route, but it is supposed that the authorities will have the work done before the middle of next summer.

"Now, as to living on the country, it is not practicable for a party to do so, and it would be folly to attempt the trip without ample supplies. Fish are plentiful, but game is scarce; from Quesnelle north for 300 miles there is practically no game along the trail, not even grouse or rabbles. It is not possible for a large party starting now without dogs to get through to Clondyke before next August, and as a 'quick and easy ronte' it is simply idiotic to start this fall. Parties intending to take this route should start from Quesnelle not earlier than the latter part of May, as the grass will be too short for feed before that

"Most of this route is known to be through a mineral country, and there are large areas of very promising country to prospect. Omineca district, the borders of Cassiar, the Peace river comtry, the Testin lake region, and other places now unknown and unexplored, will yield plenty of dust when those sections have been prospected. I have spent the district of 1897 prospecting in the Omineca district and speak with a knowledge of the facts in these matters, and I can assure Arthur Jordan that if he takes a party on this 'quick and easy route' he will be very lucky if the tenderfeet don't stretch his neck as a mild hint to others of his kind. who have been interested in Jordan's scheme can inform themselves as to my credibility in Tacoma, where I lived some years ago."

ABOUT KAIILOOPS.

The Pole Star on the North Thompson has been bonded by Mr. T. C. Cotterill, of London, England, for an amount not stated. He has also bonded the Copper King for \$20,000, paying \$500 cash. A further sum of \$5,000 becomes payable in 30 days and the balance in 12 months.

OUR COKE SUPPLY.

The coke production of the Dunsmuir cofferies at Comox. Vancouver Island, is so steadily enlarging in response to the growing demands of the mme country, that Messrs. Dunsmoir are about to build a large ferry steamer to earry this smelter fuel from Comox to Vancouver. whence it is forwarded by the C. P. R. to mine country points. The sceam ferry boat now under construction will probably also be followed by a second designd also to carry passengers and plying between Nanaimo and Vancouver. Soon, too, the Crow's Nest coal measure will be utilized for coke production, which is certain in the early future to become a very important bye industry of the Province.

NOT FROM THE COLONIST.

The following suggestive note on the Clondyke comes from Mr. Burton F. Rennett, U. S. District Attorney at Alaska, who says:

"The world at large may not realize it, but there are men up north who are walking right into death. The snow is probably flying on White Pass and if not soon will be. Many propose to winter at Skagway, but from what I can learn hundreds do not propose to stop there, nor will they return to civilization. It is the most damnable rush I over heard or read of. These men do not know anything of the horrors of White Pass in the winter time, yet they keep on, and just about the time that winter is at its worst some of them will be caught on White Pass. They will never escape."

SPENDING MONEY LIKE WATER.

According to the Rossland Record, the Klondyke Mining, Trading & Transportation Co. Ld., of London, Eng., -a company on the directorate of which are Sir Charles Topper and Mr. C. Ashworth, both now in Rossland-Is prepared "to spend money like water when anything is in sight, having unlimited capital at its back." Under such circumstances spending money like water is easy enough, not so to get it back in return. Sir Charles states, by the bye, that in his opinion Rossland will be the greatest mine camp in the world. But there never was, is, nor will be anything small about Sir Charles' utterances, though in this case every man in B.C. should heartily welcome the fulfillment of his latest prediction.

HALL MINES.

The smelter at these mines has, during a period of 33 days, ending Sept. 30th, treated 6210 tons of ore long 522 tons of matte, containing tons of copper, 141,860 ounces of silver and 98 ounces of gold.

SLOCAN NOTES.

An important strike is reported on the Ben Mitchell mineral claim, on Twelve-Mile. A three-foot ledge, the surface quartz assaying something over \$125 a ton in gold and silver, has been encountered.

16

The recent strike on the Stranger claim, in Jackson Basin, is proving even better than was expected. At last accounts the drift showed 12 inches of ore in the face. Three men took out 20 sacks of ore in one shift last week. Lumber for buildings is being taken up the Jackson road. The force will be enlarged shortly, and the property extensively developed.

Mr. J. Warne has returned from Idaho to commence work on some South Fork properties in which he is interested, the Montana group. Some heavy eastern capitalists, represented by Mr. Ge rge A. Eastman, are interested, and an active season's work is expected.

Three men have been at work all summer on the Silver Boll, Martin Bres,' claim. Some rich ore has been taken out, and shipping will be commenced in the near future. Assays on this property run as high as 600 ounces. Eighty tons shipped last fall ran 230 ounces.

Work on the Montezuma concentrator is being pushed with all possible haste. The building has been erected and enclosed, and the large force of mechanics is now engaged framing jigs, round tables, etc. Two cars of machinery are now at Nashville, to be transferred to the mill as rapidly as possible. The mill and trainway will probably be in operation in six weeks.

Fourteen men are now working on the Fidelity group, under Foreman McKay. Two tunnels are being driven under the cone of the hill from either side, and when they meet stoping to the surface will commence. It is thought the small anex will yield 300 tons of ore. In the breast of the main tunnel, 18 inches of solid steel galena is shown, of very high grade. Forty tons of this ore has been sacked, and will be shipped at once, being packed from the mine to the lake shore, where the C. P. R. will handle it. This are is expected to net \$150 per ton over all expenses. Shipments will be kept up all winter.

Hugh McNaughton has three men at work on his claims, the Simcoe group, on Long Creek, a branch of the South Fork. They are opening up the ledge and preparing buildings, etc., for the winter's work.

Fourteen men are at work on the Liberty Hill on South Fork. About 150 tons of concentrating ore has been taken out from the No. 1 tunnel, which will be shipped as soon as rawhiding can be comme ced.

Preparations for an active winter's work are under way at the Red Fox claim. Lumber is being packed up for bunk houses, ore bins, etc., and a large force is to be put on as soon as possible. The Red Fox promises to be a steady shipper this winter.

A rich find of free gold has been made on a claim on Lemon Creek, opposite the new townsite, by Mr. William Brasch. The samples contain large nuggets of free gold, and the ledge is said to be from 18 inches to three feet in width, and can be traced 3,000 feet. The British Canadian Gold Fields Cempany has the property under bond.

GOLD IN ENGLAND.

There is gold of course in plenty in England, or at least at England's command in the form of coin and bullion. But it is, not generally known that there is quite a possibility of the discovery of a workable gold reef in south western England, within the limits of one of the most richly mineralised counties in England, namely Cornwall. Mr. E. W. Newton, F. G. S., of Camborne, however, recently submitted a paper to a meeting of Cornish scientific societies, in which he touched on the subject of gold in Cornwall.

"Gold," he then said, "has never been found in any marketable quantities but traces have been obtained in many localities. Many authorities also state that the geological formation in many parts of the country, especially near the Lizard, is very similar to gold-producing localities abroad. At Manacean, near Lizard, titaniferous iron exists largely as river sand, and if this sand be carefully vanned traces of gold are easily obtainable. But the finest specimens have been got from the Carnon Valley Steam Works, most of which was bought by the late Mr. John Michael Williams from the miners. The largest nuggets weigh about 2 oz., and vary in size down to small specks.

"It is quite probable it may yet be discovered in paying quantities in the county, as it is generally found, in such a finely-divided state that it may easily be overlooked unless specially sought after. Cornwall also is such a highly mineralized county that there is no reason whatever: by a profitable reef should not be discovered. As gold has been found in alluvial deposits, the natural inference must be that it still exists in situ at some place not far distant."

THE BLUE BELLS.

Mr. Banfield, superintendent of the London company that has bonded the Blue Bells on Frederick Arm, came down from the north coast on Sunday by the steamer Comox. An additional building has been erected, and a larger force of men will be put on shortly, with a view to developing the property as fast as possible. The tunnel was in seventy-three feet when Mr. Banfield left, and the last 20 feet were in ore, with no signs of the banging wall.



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THE DUNDEE.

Of this Rossland mine statements made on the authority of officers are as follows:

The shaft is now down 190 feet, and the ore body is wide and well defined. As soon as a depth of 200 feet is attained in a few days, the intention is to drift on the vein, as there will then be ample ore for shipping in sight. There are 100 tons of ore on the dump, averaging \$35 } per ton, and 400 tons of concentrating ore concentrating 3 into , and averuging \$26 per ton. Letters have been sent to the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway, asking for rates on ore to both Nelson and Trail smelters. Inquiries are also being made as to the cost of a 50-ton concentrator, which it is the intention of the company to put in as soon as possible. As the stock is now selling for 50 cents per share in the London market, the company should be in a position to do so, especially as two machine manufacturers, after inspecting the dump, have offered to supply the same on very easylterms. It is the intention within a few days to make a shipment of a carload of the ore to a smelter, in order to determine by an actual smelter test what the ore will yield.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE R.C. MINING CRITIC.

Dear Sir: I have just read your issue of the 30th Sept., in which you make reference to the necessity of more trunk roads being constructed to some of the best districts in the Province. While I quite agree with your views as to the necessity of more roads as means of access to shipping properties, I wish to point out that the article in question is somewhat misleading inastruch as it refers to the shipping mines at the head of Bugaboo creek as belonging to the Golden & Fort Steele Development Co. The mines with which Mr. Watelet is connected are owned by a Vancouver syndicate of which Dr. Langis is one. 1 believe they have a considerable quantity of ore on their dump which cannot be shipped at a profit without better road accommodation being provided. Golden and Fort Steele Co. have been developing a group of claims quite close to the group in question and havea large quantity of ore on the dump, but we do not pretend to say that our property is yet a shipping mine, although we believe that next season we will be in a position to ship if proper means of transport be provided. If the scheme of navigating tha Duncan river be carried out, we will in all probability make arrangements to send our ore in that direction.

I simply write this to correct the wrong impression which your article might convey as to our property being claimed to be a shipping mine. We are pleased with it so far as this season's development has enabled us to judge of

its value, but we do not wish anyone to think that we claim to have a shipping mine when in fact we make no such claim in respect of our property.

> Yours very truly, G. S. McCanten.

> > Secretary.

GOLDEN, 5th Oct., 1897.

NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENT IS NEEDED.

The Dominion Government has hitherto done but little to improve river navigation in B. C., though there are numerous opportunities for such work, to which, in view of the Province's big "per capita" contribution to national revenue, our country is very fully entitled. One case in point is that of the Duncan River, the northern part of which can at moderate cost be made navigable for shallow draught steamers. which would thus give ready access to many apparently rich properties on the divide between East and West Kootenay. The people of Golden and Kaslo alike demand this improvement, and no doubt Mr. Bostock, M.P., will do what he can to secure it, as until its accomplishment the ore cannot be got out and conveyed with profit to somewhat distant smelters.

ROSSLAND MAY LOOK UP.

HER LOW GRADE PROPOSITIONS

Can be Worked at a Profit with Better Transportation and Smelters Close at Hand.—What T. H. Fraser Said.

Thomas H. Fraser, of Vancouver, B.C., who passed through the city on his way to St. John. N.B., can see only a brilliant future for the mining fields of British Columbia.

"During the past twelve mouths," he said to a Telegram reporter, "the country has settled down to legitimate mining, and there is now more real mining going on in British Columbia than at any time in its history. There are, perhaps, not so many people there as there were a year ago, but the adventurers who always follow up mining booms have drifted away to look for new fields and fresh victims. But the men who went there to mine are there yet, and their numbers are constantly being augmented by fresh arrivals from other mining fields, principally Australia and South Africa.

"The Rossland district, I am convinced, will in the course of the next twelve months come to the front again, and my reason for thinking so is that better transportation facilities and smelters built in proximity to the mines will enable the owners of low grade properties to go on with development work. The fact that mining men are now taking the place of loggers and fishermen will also have a beneficial effect, as much

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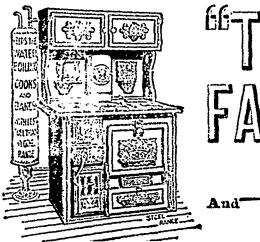
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loss in the past can be traced to the ignorance and bad management of men whe held positions for which their former experience made them entirely unit.

"Of course more capital will be required for working the low-grade propositions, as they must be worked on a large scale to make them profitable; but as mining proceeds, and depth shows increased value of the ore, this capital is bound to come.

" A district that has but recently attracted attention is Cariboo Creek. situated between Nakusp and Trail. New discoveries of a very premising kind are being made there, and if development and exploration had started earlier it would even now have shipping mines. The formation is solid and unbroken. and the ledges are wide, carrying high values in both silver and gold. No difficulty occurs in tracing them for miles. And from the outcome the values are phenominal. A considerable townsite is spring up, called Burton City, and will be the junction for miles in this district. Several mines are working. Amongst those showing up well are the "Columbia-Cariboo, Black Bess, Trio, Silver Vein and others. Work is being pushed energetically on all these properties, the ledges being from 3 feet to 20 feet in width, giving values in gold from \$20 to \$50 per ton.

"Ten miles from Arrowhead is Thomoson's Landing; from there a waggon road is made to Trout Lake City. The Horne-Payne Syndicate with others are operating the celebrated Silver Cup mine, which carries considerable grey copper ore, giving up to a thousand dollars in silver. About sixteen miles from the Silver Cup the Abbott group is being worked. There are three distinct lodes in this property, varying from 3 to 15 feet, and traceable for several miles. On the surface is solid gal ma, varying from 6 inches to 3 feet, and averaging 80 ounces in silver and 60 per cent. in lead. It is somewhat difficult to get into the country at present on account of the lack of roads, but the richness and permanency of the veins will eventually bring the roads. The formation is sand, and the veins appear between a contact of state and lime. This country is little prospected, but indications warrant exploration.

"As to the Lardeau country, mining men who have visited it have but one opinion," which it is needless to say, is that no richer silver-lead country has ever been discovered."—Toronto Telegram.

AN EAST KOOTENAY EXHIBIT.

East Kontenay has until lately been too tardy in advertising her large and varied mineral resources. A change of policy is however now successfully inaugurated and the Fort Steele exhibit of East Kootenay wine products is said to be the finest shown at the Spokane Fair

CIVILIZATION ONE-SIDED.

A Greenwood City correspondent. writing to the Vancouver News-Advertiser as to this mining town, says: "Greenwood is getting civilized now: there are four saloons here and one in course of erection, but no church."

MAKING ENQUIRIES.

Col. Domville, M.P., is now in the Province seeking information for the British Clondyke Company, in which he is interested as a director. He will soon learn many things about the Yukon. So too will the British capitalists who accompany the gallant Colonel. will wisely put off till spring departure for the frozen North.

SHREWD MEN.

The members of the Manchester Exchange, who number 10,000 of the shrewdest traders and manufacturers in the north of England, are most of them bimetallists and silver men, and even many of the minority who are not, feel that something must be done to settle the money question. They recognize that the demonetisation of silver is largely destroying Britain's trade in textile export manufactures sent to the Orient, and londly demand a change of money policy. They are accordingly petitioning the Imperial Government to effect, if possible, a compromise settlement of the silver question in response to American, French and other national overtures.

THE LAST CHANCE.

The new double-compartment shaft is being sunk on the Last Chance, in Skylark camp, says the Boundary Creek Times. It will be sunk to a depth of 175 feet, when it is expected to strike the lode. Some exceedingly high grade ore has been recently taken from this property. There is on the property an incline which last year was sunk to about 100 feet; this year, under the superintendency of Martin McGrath, drifting was commenced at the 70-foot level. The drift was tun in about 30 feet through the lode matter without meeting with the foot wall, but a vein of rich ore from eight to ten inches in thickness and widening as it goes down, was cut. Mr. McGrath received instructions from the company last week to sink a vertical shaft.

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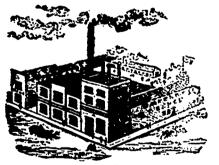
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The B. C. Mining Critic, Vancouver, B.C.

PERRY CREEK.

More hopeful reports as to free milling gold possibilities come from this East Kootenay creek, but that the Perry creek properties carry free milling gold is not yet absolutely established. When it is a big rush will occur, as there are large ledges of fine looking quartz, and several hundred claims have been staked on this creek.

BETTER THUS.

Says a contemporary in the United States:

"Although there will be much British capital invested in the Alaska and Klondyke gold region, it looks now as though American coin would predominate. This is out of the usual order of things, and is indeed gratifying to Americans. British gold has developed a huge amount of American mining property, and American capital will now reciprocate by entering English territory. It is capital that is needed to develop mines, and it makes no great difference after all what money does it so long as it is done."

This is just as well under the circumstances. Three of every four Clondyke company schemes yet floated are grossly delusive, and if money is thus to be lost, as lost it will be in large volume, we naturally prefer that it be in the main American rather than British or Canadian. New York has, it would appear, almost gone crazy over Clondyke possibilities, usually taking each of them for a probability.

THE FERN MINE.

Mr. F. C. Innes states that the new 10-stamp mill of the Fern mine is working well, exceeding expectations and saving closely. They are running three tous to the stamp, making 30 tons per day. While they can take 150 tons of ore from the mine daily, they are only taking out about 40 tons. This amount will be doubled so soon as the additional stamps are in. The foundation for other 10 stamps is completed, and they expect to have them running inside of six weeks, giving them 20 stamps. A permanent force of men is employed at the mine, and so soon as the stamps are increased to 20, 1? more men will be put on. Mr. Innes says that the tramway is also working perfectly, and can make a round trip every 10 minutes, carrying two and a half tons of ore. The length is 2,800 feet. There is enough ore now blocked out in the mine to run the mill for over two years at its fullest capacity. All that is claimed is an average of \$20 per ton, which is higher than the prospectus gave. The mill will treat more ore than was claimed by the prospectus, and is running much higher than \$20 per ton. Judged by these statements of a leading director, the Fern mine should have a prosperous early future of profitable production.

THE GOLDEN CACHE.

A meeting of the directors of the Golden Cache Mines, Limited, was held on Tuesday, Oct. 13, when the result of the recent starting of the stamp mill was laid before the board. The officials of the company state that in order woods it alteration in the dumping arrangement. at the foot of the trainway, the director. have decided to shut down the stam of mill before the average test intended has been completed. The mill wise a for three days, and although none of it is richest are has been sent down, a carup of \$10 per ton is obtained, in and on to the amount obtained by the absornt on of the plates,

The mill will be again started by the ead of the month, and rose without interruption until Nov. 30, when a full Cleanup will be made, the result being 1 - iked forward to with every coalidence.

The directors being assured of the permanency of the mine, and will a Vow to reducing the cost of pooling and are taking preliminary steps or unless the very valuable water power existing on the company's property, the intention being to install turbines with a gross capacity of 600 horse power, f. two units of 300 horse power, each being equivalent to operating 50 stamps. A correct has been ascepted for the construction of the dam, and its erection will be commenced without delay.

In the event of the mine turning out a low grade proposition, it is suggested on high authority that a very complete plant be put in at an estimated ac-\$35,000, treasury stock being issued to raise the necessary further capital. Application will meanwhile be made to the Government authorities for the ap 10priation of 6,000 miners' inches of water for the purposes of the company. It is learned that Mr. J. McQuillan has resigned the Vice-Presidency of the Company and that Mr. Robertson has a so resigned his seat on the Board in order to provide a vacancy for Mr. Wm. : kene, of the Vancouver Board of Trade, who will act as representative of the interests in the Company of Mr. Mark Oldroyd, M.P., of Dewsbury, England, who, as is generally known, invested recently some £70,000 in the purchase of stock in the company-obtained, as the company's shares stand high, at very big premiums. Everything now points to the vigorous early further develor-ment of the Golden Cache property, with the aid of ample capital.

THE ORO FINO GROUP.

At a meeting of the directors of the Oro Fino Mines, Limited, held in Vanconver on the 12th inst., reports were received from Manager Robinson showing that the Oro Fino ledge was improving with development, and the value of the ore increasing with depth. The as-



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he stated that there were over 1000 tons in sight.

In view of this the directors feel that tiev are justified in creeting a small stamp mill on the property, and for this purpose are in communication with mannfacturers of quartz mills. They will endeavor to have a mill in operation before spring.

It is also decided to place on the market 50,000 shares (of the par value of 25 cents each), at par. The proceeds of the sale of these shares will be used in the purchase and erection of the mill on the Company's property at Fairview.

The vendors' stock in this Company is projed, and "Neither the said pooled shares nor the agreement for their issue shall be vendible or assignable by the said owners. Neither can the shares be the subject of sale or agreement for sale, either for present or future delivery. and any and every such owner who shall assign or sell or agree to assign or sell for present or future delivery, shall the reupon and thereby forfeit all rights to the issue of the shares agreed to be issued to him, and such shares so forfeited shall remain the property of the company and be dealt with as the company may see fit.

"The pooled stock cannot be realised on all a dividend is declared and paid by the company out of the profits, or if a two-thirds vote of the shareholders shall decide to dissolve the agreement pooling the stocks."

This agreement prevents the vendors placing any of their holdings on the market in competition with the treasury says ontained from average samples of shares, and protects the purchasers of ore were \$35. \$52.50 and \$50 per ton, and treasury stock. INTERNATIONAL

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On the Kootenay Lake and River.

TIME CARD

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

Five Mile Point Connection with all Pas-senger Trains of the N. & F. S. R. R. to and from Northport Ross-iand 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 12:15 p.m.; Rossland, 3:40 p.m.; Spokane, 6 p.m.

Leave Nelson for Kuslo 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.

The Alberta awaits the arrival of the Inter-national on Saturday evening before leaving for Bonner's Ferry.

Close connection at Bonner's Ferry with trains East bound, leaving Spokane 7:40 a.m., and West bound, arriving Spokane 7:40 a.m., Kash B. C., 12th July, 1847.

G. ALEXANDER, General Manager.

The Oriental Hotel.

The Rost Prominent Hotel in Vancouver EVERYTHING FIRST CLASS GRIEVE & BLANCEFIELD, - -VANCOUVER, B. C.