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The British Columbia Mining Critic.

"I Am Nothing if Not Critical."—Shakespeare.

VOL. I, No. 2.

VANCOUVER, B. C., THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1897.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

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ADVICE TO PILGRIMS.

The following from the *Ledge* is applicable to other districts beside the Kootenay, hence we reproduce it "for the benefit of all whom it may concern."

As a bright light attracts moths to its flame, so do the riches and fame of Kootenay attract thousands of people anxious to better their fortunes. We would like to make a few remarks upon the rush to Kootenay.

It is true that the district is a rich one, but its inhabitants cannot support all the paupers, drones, hoboes and broken people of America.

It is true that Kootenay has plenty of gold and silver, but it is in the solid formation, and cannot be picked up from the road-side like shells from the ocean's shore.

It is true that there is plenty to do, but every job has more than one man for it.

It is true that living is comparatively high and that the man with only a nickel or two is strictly not in it.

It is true that fortunes can be made, but seldom without capital to st. twth. or extraordinary luck.

To the pilgrims and tenderfeet who are thinking of coming to this glorious country we would say:

Have money in plenty or an assured situation before you bid the folks adieu. If you don't you may have to sleep in the street and chew scenery for breakfast.

Do not come out here and expect that you are smarter than the natives. Some of the brightest minds on earth breathe the ozone in Kootenay and it is hard to keep up with them.

If you have failed everywhere else do not expect to be any better here, and you will not be disappointed.

If you are tough and ordered to leave your community do not come at all. You will find competition too keen.

If you have little money but plenty of manhood and are composed of the same stuff as the trail blazers of this great country, come along. You will win in the end provided you do not bond yourself to boozereeno, cards and the woman in red.

The Wall Street reporter of New York says: "Eminent mining engineers, representing London and Paris capital are authority for the statement that within a radius of a dozen miles of Rossland na-

DAVID F. DOUGLAS

REAL ESTATE &
MINING BROKER

Masonic Block, Corner of
CAMBIE & CORDOVA

PROPERTY

:: IS ::

LOOKING UP

\$3500—An elegant residence of 9 rooms; bath hot and cold water, w. c. House in splendid order; corner, 50 x 130; west of C. P. R. hotel; cost \$7000.

\$3000—Fine residence on Barclay street, between Burrard and Thurlow; 10 rooms, modern, beautiful grounds; lot 65 x 122; easily worth \$6200.

\$2800—10-room modern residence, Haro street, on the hill; fine view of English bay and inlet; nice grounds; lot 66 x 122; \$1800 can remain; \$1000 cash for equity.

\$4375—25 foot improved business property near corner of Carrall and Hastings; good rental, terms can be arranged.

\$140—Per foot for choice buy on Hastings, between Abbott and Carrall; 42 feet frontage; adjoining lot held at \$250 per foot.

33—Feet on Hastings, between Carrall and Abbott for \$1000. If your head is clear and your pocket full, it won't take you very long to secure this buy.

\$1300—Will make a good buy on Westminster avenue, business property, and coming rapidly to the front.

\$500—Three good lots on Mount Pleasant, Fifth avenue west; can have nice garden; lots 49 1/2 x 125.

\$400—Cash for equity in No. 951 Hornby street, modern 8-room house; mortgage, \$1350 at 8 per cent.; newly built.

\$3750—Best double corner on Georgia street, faces on three streets; 132 x 132 to a 35-foot alley.

\$800—For equity in 8-room modern house, Homer street, near Georgia; price \$1700, balance \$29.70 per month.

\$400—Good lot on Seymour street, adjoining lots held at \$350.

\$250—A dandy lot on Harris street in East end. Cash tells on this buy.

\$3000—Fine 7-room modern house, Seymour street, between Georgia and Dunsmuir; 50 x 122; fine lawn; just in rear of Hudson's Bay store, Granville street; cost \$800; must be sold.

\$300—Cash for equity in 7-room modern house, Howe street, near corner of Smith; mortgage \$1200 at 8 per cent.; in good order.

\$2500—Finest double corner of the hill; fine view of the inlet and bay; must be sold at once; 132 x 132 to a 35-foot alley.

50—Foot business property, Westminster avenue, to trade for vacant lots in the West end.

160—Acre Farm, which I will trade for city property, vacant or improved.

\$2800—I will loan this amount on first mortgage on good improved city property.

WILL trade a nice residence property in Vernon for Vancouver city property.

I HAVE a few choice buys in West end lots, 66 x 132, at from \$600 to \$1500.

HOUSES TO RENT MONEY TO LOAN!

QUOTATIONS ON ALL MINING STOCK

OPEN EVENINGS

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M. De Keyser Verbiest. . . .

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AND SPECIALLY AD-
APTED TO THE
WORKING OF TAIL-
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THE MINING CRAZE

Everybody in British Columbia appear to be infected with the mining fever, all sorts and conditions of men seem to have caught it. Clergymen and dissenting ministers have resigned their sacred office to engage in mining business, and one of the latter lately a distinguished light in the Wesleyan pulpit bids fair to the equally famous as a mining broker. There is hardly a single storekeeper who does not own at least one claim, and the amount of style which children put on because their father has a gold mine, is amusing to those who know the difference between a claim and a mine. But here as Dr. Watts says:

"Every prospect pleases."

A local preacher lately got carried away in the pulpit, and produced an entirely original effect, by giving the up to date version of the text—"But I say unto you that Solomon in all his glory was not assayed like one of these." There is not a portion of the province which is devoid of mineral and every day produces new claims and new development companies. It is needless to say that many of the claims are as worthless as some of the companies. Yet it is equally true that there are already discovered claims which when developed will attract the capital of the world, and companies with directors and experts whose reputation is such as to inspire confidence in financial circles both of Europe and America.

SMELTER PLANT.

No law is better recognized than that relating to supply and demand. Where the latter exists the former very soon makes its appearance and quickly fills vacuum. The smelter proposition has become a most serious and important one to Vancouver as well as Victoria. In fact, there is not a newspaper, daily, weekly or monthly, published in British Columbia which does not contain in it references to some smelters: smelters wanted, smelters in course of construction, smelters proposed, yes, and smelters abandoned.

The following article from the *Western Mining World* is of general application and comes right to business:

"The city of Victoria wants a smelter plant, and wants it so bad that it is willing to give a bonus of \$150,000 for one. Our opinion is that when it becomes necessary to bonus any institution there is but very little use for it. Especially is this true of smelter plants. When it becomes necessary to have a smelter in any community it will be built, as the men who manage the business of mining are about as keen a set of fellows as the world possesses. There is no question but what a smelter or two will be built on the British seaboard in the near future, as the mineral resources are every day becoming a certainty, and thus there will be no necessity of bonusing a set of boomers into building a smelter at this

To MINING MEN AND MANUFACTURERS

Mining Machinery!

You may have that which



Miners and Investors :

mostly prize: but then,
how are they to know
it if you do not

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

The British Columbia Mining Critic.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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

THURSDAYMAY 6, 1897.

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

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

Views and descriptions of mines and mining locations solicited.

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

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MAURICE GRADWOHL,
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The mining fever is so contagious and spreading to such an extent that a few words of warning at the present stage are not inappropriate. It would indeed be no easy task to meet in British Columbia a man of intelligence who is not interested in mining in some of its multifarious forms: either he owns a genuine mine, or thinks he does; he is a partner in a mine or a stockholder in a mining company, or he is concerned in some development association. Should he not come under any of these heads then he is sure to be a prospector—a searcher for land containing valuable minerals, with a view to acquiring the land and its precious metals either for himself or some others besides himself, or possibly for a syndicate. The number of prospectors is legion, and still a very limited number are qualified for the task they have undertaken. Logging camps are actually being deserted by "miners" for the possibly more remunerative occupation of staking out 52 acres Crown land, swearing that mineral exists, and selling the claim to the unwary and inexperienced "tenderfoot" looking out for something very cheap, anything from \$10 to \$100, with the forlorn hope of incorporating a small company with a capitalization of \$1,000,000 and netting to himself untold wealth. The fallacy of protecting the poor man in his mineral discoveries by allowing him, at the cost of \$2.50, to take up and hold 52 acres is at present the curse of the mining industry. The moment that there is any pretense of a discovery of mineral in a new district then the whole country for miles and miles is staked out without any sensible reason, and yet all these claims are supposed to be carrying mineral-bearing bodies. In many instances men with not \$10 of capital hold no less than 20, and even 30 claims, or in all over 1,000 acres, it being impossible for them to do the assessment work, and they are locking up the country against bona fide mining institutions. This prostitution, however, of a great mining industry is legalized by an intelligent gov-

new claim prospectors carefully produce from a secret recess of their apparel a piece of granite, slate, diorite, or anything but the ledge matter, and seriously inform you that they have the "biggest thing on earth," but are willing to bond the claim for \$50,000 providing 10 per cent. be paid down, the said lode (granite) being 40 feet in width and traceable right through the property. Such conduct is not promotive of any good or beneficial results. Many a hundred claims will be and have been located and never prospected, and under these conditions never will be, while a systematic exploring party under a good head could prospect and probably discover a valuable lead which would bring wealth to the country and reward the energy of the finders, who would only stake off that which might in the future become valuable.

But no encouragement is offered competent explorers or prospectors, for the moment a "find" is made all adjoining lands are staked for speculative purposes, and should the speculation "fall through" the claim remains in the possession of the uninitiated, incompetent and impecunious party. This state of affairs is truly deplorable. If \$50 were necessary to record a claim, then there would be money in the exchequer for making roads and opening up a district with merit, and there would be fewer "wild cats." As the fine weather now approaches thousands upon thousands of claims will be staked and recorded monthly. It is against this kind of business we offer a strong protest, and we advise our readers who have intentions of becoming interested in undeveloped claims to carefully examine into the prospects of such property prior to paying over the purchase money. We advocate that duly qualified licensed professional mining men be employed to examine the property under offer, and upon their report let the price be based. The prevailing idea that to become a prospector is the easiest matter in the world is altogether devoid of corroboration. Clerks, counter-men, and others similarly situated, are totally unfit for the hardships and privations endured by the genuine prospector, and only in the course of many months, and by hard-earned experience, can they hope to understand the first rudiments of the profession, and even then their statements as to finds can only be received by intelligent men with the utmost caution.

It is now regarded as a fact that many of the English companies have reliable representatives here. It is equally well known that there are many "fakers."

It is to the interest of all persons concerned to make particular inquiry concerning the companies who advertise themselves as being the genuine "Simon Pure." At an early date we propose to publish the personnel of the companies or-

THE ORPHAN BOY SWINDLE.

As far as we can ascertain, says the Revelstoke *Herald*, there will not be anything for the shareholders of the Orphan Boy Mining Co. out of the sale except their proportion each of the \$2,000 over and above Haskins' claim. The present owners are private individuals in Vancouver, who, the *Herald* understands, do not intend to stock a company to run the mine at all, but have simply bought it, relying on the published reports, as a valuable property. As far as we can make out, the old directors and managers are strictly outside. We say as far as we can make out, for from beginning to end of the existence of the Orphan Boy Mining Co., nobody apparently, not even those who nominally figured as directors on the prospectus, has been able to get at the bottom of the transactions of the inner circle. The Revelstoke press has been blamed for not exposing the swindle before, but as a matter of fact the swindle was not worked here, but in Vancouver, which was flooded with proprietary stock before even the treasury stock could get on the market. The Revelstoke business men who figured as directors on the prospectus went into the thing with the most perfect good faith, and are as hard hit as anybody else. The misfortune is that the rascality at work had the names of so many upright and honorable men here under which to operate.

However, the *Herald* believes that the matter is not quite so altogether at an end as is imagined. It may be impossible to recover the money of the shareholders of the treasury stock, but it may still be quite possible to lay bare the tricks of the schemers who wrecked the company in Vancouver. In the *Herald's* opinion the Revelstoke business men, who have allowed their names to figure before the public on the prospectus of the defunct company, owe it to themselves to sift the whole business to the bottom, and the *Herald* will give them all the assistance in its power in throwing light upon it, if they choose to adopt this course, which, in our opinion, it is due both to themselves and the good name of this business community that they should do as quickly as possible.

The government of British Columbia has at last an opportunity to prove to the public that it is desirous of protecting the investors in mining companies. There has just been perpetrated in the name and by the secretary of a company organized under the laws of this province the coldest-blooded swindle ever brought to light in connection with the flotation of a British Columbia mine, and if ever there was a case of culpable negligence in the management of the affairs of an incorporated company it is manifest in this instance. This negligence is rendered more glaring than usual by the apparent indifference of the directors of

public whom their secretary was enabled to rob, or the welfare of the mining industry of the province in general.

The whole episode is one of the most discreditable which we have ever heard of. A claim in the Big Bend, generally believed to have real merit, was incorporated as the Orphan Boy Gold Mining Company. The officers were: E. H. Wedekind, at that time manager of the Trail smelter, president; J. W. Haskins, Revelstoke, vice-president; F. C. Whitney, Revelstoke, secretary-treasurer; H. C. Bellinger, of the Trail smelter, director. This was an eminently respectable board of trustees, and the public consequently placed some confidence in the company.

H. C. Whitney, secretary-treasurer of the company, came to Rossland, was interviewed at length in the papers regarding the Big Bend country, and advertised the sale of promoters' and treasury shares, the president of the company at this time being a resident of Trail, seven miles distant, and the vice-president a resident of Revelstoke, 200 miles away, with a tri-weekly mail service. Mr. Whitney was also equipped with a lot of blank stock certificates signed by the vice-president any himself and impressed with the company's seal. These certificates he sold for coin of the realm. All this took place last October, and yet it was only the day before yesterday that any intimation was received in Rossland, where about 40,000 shares of stock had been sold, that these shares were not regularly and lawfully issued.

The letterhead on which the new secretary-treasurer of the Orphan Boy company makes the astounding announcement that the stock sold in Rossland by Secretary Whitney five months ago was a forgery, bears the names of the following as officers of the company: J. W. Haskins, president; H. N. Coursier, vice-president; H. A. Brown, secretary-treasurer; Charles R. Carlyon and F. C. Whitney, directors.

Now we submit that on this statement of the case the government or some member of the provincial parliament should move for a committee to investigate the affair. If no responsibility attaches to the company for the acts of its secretary under its seal, then it should attach to the board of directors, and if no such liability attaches, then the new companies act should guard against such swindles in the future by placing the responsibility somewhere. — *Rossland Miner*.

As we go to press a meeting is reported in progress at the office of David F. Douglas, in Vancouver, relating to the above company. This is the second one held there since the sale. At the former a committee was appointed to consult legal counsel, and its report is expected to-night. Besides the meeting here, others have been held by stockholders in Victoria and Rossland for the same pur-

in good faith have expended their earnings may get the justice they deem themselves entitled to. The office of the Orphan Boy for Vancouver is not at Mr. Douglas' headquarters, in fact he is not even a stockholder, he says. Simply because he was the agent who floated the stock he accords the investors the courtesy of his own personal business quarters. A circular before us advertised such a good thing, too: "A Silver Mine; A Safe Investment: Assays \$30 to \$1,280 in Gold," and so on.

We have met Mr. J. J. Palmer of Toronto a guest at one of our leading hotels. He disclaims any interest in the Orphan Boy. [Poor Orphan Boy! so many are disclaiming even remote relationship to him.] He states that had he had, the sale would not have taken place. "No, sir; I would have got out an injunction. Why, Mr. H. A. Brown, the secretary, at Revelstoke, told me that he had a syndicate, and that it was prepared to pay \$20,000; but of course, when no one bid over that \$6,200, that ended it. Mr. Thomson, the stationer here, can verify that \$20,000 proposition; just see him."

A call upon Mr. J. A. Thomson resulted in receiving his direct denial that he asserted the syndicate had been prepared to pay \$20,000 for the Orphan Boy. While he was not very voluble, he emphatically stated that the remark attributed to him that the purchasers would not take \$60,000 for it was false, yet it was contemplated syndicating it for that sum.

EPITAPH.

THE ORPHAN BOY.

One more unfortunate
Claim gone to smash;
Dogged by unkindly Fate,
Lost is its cash.
Liquidate tenderly,
Wind up with care;
Left to expend there be
Nothing per share.

AN OLD BOOK.

The *CRITIC* is in receipt of a book from one who signs herself (for the writing is indubitably that of a lady) "An Admirer," entitled "Astoria," by Washington Irving, published by Bentley, London, in 1839. It deals with the early exploration of the northern part of the Pacific coast, and gives interesting facts about the physical aspect of the country, its resources, etc. A remarkable fact is that the idea of mineral in any quantity was not supposed to exist, and the matter is hardly noticed. Doubtless these early pioneers have passed over soil now being mined by some of their posterity, who will reap independent fortunes through their labors.

MINING PROSPECTUSES.

A fair competency awaits an ingenious man of letters, fairly well versed in mining matters, joint stock companies and mining associations. He must, however, be discreet. We are in possession of three mining and development company circulars which have been very freely distributed among our thoroughfares and we unhesitatingly denounce them as illogical, fallacious and deliberately false. Notwithstanding the attempted proofs by the use and jugglery of figures, even some who are not among the verdant will be "taken in" by them. Hence the opportunity for the Literary Mining Bureau. It will surely turn out better work, and do the schemers more justice. One of the productions is really creditable—if the investment is profitable, the sponsors can readily say "we told you so." If on the other hand, the gudgeon is fleeced, and feels aggrieved, calls upon the manipulator *en chef* and demands an explanation, the interrogated one can respond with "We told you so." Clever—yes, clever; but this sort of cleverness will eventually redound to our discredit and reputability, and prove financially disastrous. We propose at an early date to present our readers with an analysis of some of these baits for the uninitiated, and in return will open our columns to the exposed should they deem themselves wrongfully handled. You will get fair treatment, gentlemen.

SIMPLE TESTS OF ORE.

The following simple tests will show whether an ore carries any precious metals. Afterwards samples of the rock should be assayed to ascertain the amount of value per ton: Gold—Powder; toast if sulphurets are present; grind very fine and wash in pan or spoon; examine with lens; yellow particles not soluble in nitric acid. The color of pure gold is bright yellow tinged with red. Gold may be distinguished from all other metals or alloys by the following simple traits: It is yellow, malleable, not acted upon by nitric acid. Silver—Pure silver is the brightest of metals, of a beautiful white color and rich lustre. Chloride of silver—If suspected in a pulp harshly rub a bright and wet copper cartridge thereon. If a chloride or chloride-bromide of silver it will whiten the copper. Graphite will thus whiten copper or gold, but can be rubbed off. Copper—After roasting the pulp, intimately mix and well knead with a like quantity of salt and candle grease, or any other fat, and cast into the fire, when the characteristic colors—first blue, then green—will appear. This test is better made at night. Galena—Black zinc blend is often mistaken for galena. The two may be distinguished by the infallible sign, the

HEWITT'S VIEWS.

Ex-Alderman Hewitt writing from Rosslund to a brother in New Denver, B. C. says:

"I have been very well all winter; it surprises me. I must be wily, as the great climatic change has not affected me like it has a great many more this winter. Rheumatism has been a prevalent and some big strong fellows have been pulled to pieces with it. I have now lived nearly 4000 feet up in the air for over six months, and it appears to have agreed with me. Things are about the same as when I wrote you last. We are getting through the winter and expect a lively spring. The snow is now six to eight feet deep on the mountains. It is impossible to prospect, so the town is full of men who pioneer the development of the mining industry in this country, all waiting a chance to explore and discover new wealth. They are rough, but nature's noblemen. Their hardships bring ease to others, and very seldom to themselves, as they are the prey of speculators and wealth. I suppose this must be so, as they know nothing but to rough it, and give up what they earn for very little money. You see some very curious characters in a mining camp. If one were a novelist he would be at no loss for material, no fiction, but reality. You see from the hobo, the rubber-neck curber, the fakir, the agents of English millionaires, the American mine owners and experts.

You say that many enquire of you about the prospects of work. Well, you may readily see that a mining camp does not provide the same diversity of work as commercial centres do. The work here on which everything else depends is mining, and as development increases practical miners will always be in demand. Carpentering is the next best trade, as people must have houses. Then the store business is in need of clerks. Good engineers will be wanted, and some machinists, as the different plants are put in. Outside of these trades you could not expect much. We have a full supply of professional men—lawyers, doctors, etc. You see from the above what class should stay away if they have nothing to depend upon but their labor. We have no manufactories here, so you see by the development of this wonderful country Ontario and the east will benefit their manufactories and make work for her men, and not bring an agricultural country Manitoba and N. W. T. will benefit by this market with their supplying products. You see then what interest the rest of Canada should take in the rapid development of the wonderful resources of British Columbia which I believe, if only handled aright, and taken hold of and encouraged by our governments, will make Canada second to none in natural wealth in the world. Our mining regions are the vast-

clash with other labor in our country, but on the other hand require the work of their hands for their support while they were producing the wealth from nature's treasury to pay them. Let our Government then see to it, while the world is crying for gold, that they do everything wisely to get our machinery in order, so that we can profit by taking advantage of that cry, and making the mining industry the basis of Canadian enterprise; then you will see our eastern manufactories hum and our unemployed engaged. The poor farmer would be called upon to feed us and their mortgages would disappear. This is the vision I see if the people will only have faith and our Government protect our interests by seeing that transportation is done from one end of the country to the other at reasonable rates. We don't want poor railways, but we do want them under such control as not to take all the profits from the producers at either end, and for this reason I hope the Government won't neglect the opportunity they have of insisting on fair play. We must have it, or you will hear something drop: because this western country is fast filling up with determined men who know a thing or two. The emigration is setting in this way and in a short time will surprise the world. Send us lots of money from Ontario. You will reap direct and indirect benefits beyond expectation by loyally assisting us in every way. Canada is coming to the front. It is the turning point. She has given her sons away long enough. Now they are returning. I have met hardy Canadian boys here who have been away for years, and they say they are glad to return; and besides them thousands of Americans are coming this way. Those people are all consumers, and truly it can be said that the United States will return as many to Canada as Canada gave her. I hope that they will be as good.

PROTECTION FOR MINERS.

In the British Columbia act for the safety and protection of persons employed in or about mines:

It is prohibited to pay miners wages in a place where whisky is sold, and mine owners must for statistical purposes send in returns to the bureau of mines each year. Stringent regulations are made to prevent accidents and to inquire into any that do happen. Provisions, too, are made for proper ventilation and to prevent explosives being kept at the mine, and to prohibit using iron tamping rods. Where the mines have a shaft 300 feet, and miners are lowered and hoisted, there must be a proper cage and guides. If a mine owner allows his men to be hoisted or lowered he must bear all the responsibility of accidents in connection therewith. There must be proper timbering and ladders, and penal clauses are inserted for infraction of regulations.

STOCK QUOTATIONS

Of British Columbia Mining Companies in Vancouver.

COMPANIES.	NO. OF SHARES.	PAR VALUE	PRICE
TRAIL CREEK.			
Alberta.....	1,000,000	\$ 1.00	13
B. C. Gold King.....	1,000,000	1.00	10
B. C. Gold Fields.....	2,500,000	2.00	40
Beaver.....	750,000	1.00	10
Big Chief.....	1,000,000	1.00	10
Bith (ex).....	3,500,000	1.00	12
Bith (c).....	500,000	1.00	10
Bruce.....	1,000,000	1.00	10
Caladonian Con.....	1,000,000	1.00	03 1/2
California.....	500,000	1.00	07
C. & C.....	2,500,000	1.00	15
Castle Queen.....	500,000	1.00	10
Centro Star.....	750,000	1.00	04
Coln.....	500,000	1.00	10
Commander.....	1,000,000	1.00	25
Crown Point.....	500,000	1.00	22
Deer Park.....	1,000,000	1.00	51
Bella Colla.....	1,000,000	1.00	18 1/2
Delaware.....	1,000,000	1.00	04
Eastern Star.....	1,500,000	1.00	12
Enterprise.....	500,000	1.00	12
Erle.....	1,000,000	1.00	20
Evening Star.....	1,000,000	1.00	04
Georgia.....	1,000,000	1.00	11 1/2
Gertrude.....	1,000,000	1.00	16
Giant.....	500,000	1.00	08 1/2
Golden Drip.....	2,500,000	1.00	15
Golden Queen.....	500,000	1.00	15
Great Western.....	1,000,000	1.00	10
Hattie Brown.....	1,000,000	1.00	14
Helen.....	1,000,000	1.00	07 1/2
High Ore.....	500,000	1.00	05
Homestake.....	500,000	1.00	04
Idaho.....	1,000,000	1.00	10
Imperial.....	500,000	1.00	10
Independent.....	1,000,000	1.00	05 1/2
Iron Horse.....	1,000,000	1.00	06
Iron Mask.....	1,000,000	1.00	20
I. X. L.....	500,000	1.00	46
Josie.....	1,000,000	1.00	12
Jumbo.....	700,000	1.00	46
Knight-Tempah.....	500,000	1.00	70
Kootenay-London.....	500,000	1.00	04
Le Rol.....	1,000,000	1.00	10
Lily May.....	500,000	5.00	7.50
Mayflower.....	1,000,000	1.00	20
Monarch.....	1,000,000	1.00	12
Monita.....	700,000	1.00	10
Monte Cristo.....	500,000	1.00	18
Morning Star.....	1,000,000	1.00	14
Nest Egg.....	1,000,000	1.00	07 1/2
Northern Belle.....	500,000	1.00	08
Northern.....	1,000,000	1.00	15
O. K.....	1,000,000	1.00	06 1/2
Palo Alto.....	1,000,000	1.00	28 1/2
Phoenix.....	500,000	1.00	06
Popman.....	500,000	1.00	11
R. E. Lee.....	2,000,000	1.00	07
Red Mountain View.....	1,000,000	1.00	15
Red Point.....	1,000,000	1.00	10
Rochester.....	500,000	1.00	10
Rossland Star.....	1,000,000	1.00	15
Rossland, Red M'n.....	1,000,000	1.00	28
St. Elmo.....	1,000,000	1.00	06 1/2
St. Paul.....	1,000,000	1.00	12 1/2
Silverline.....	500,000	1.00	08
Southern C. & W. C.....	500,000	1.00	20
Stiana.....	1,000,000	1.00	10
Trail Mining Co.....	2,500	100.00	100
Union.....	500,000	1.00	10
Virginia.....	500,000	1.00	12
War Eagle Con.....	2,000,000	1.00	15
West Le Rol.....	500,000	1.00	27
White Bear.....	2,000,000	1.00	16
Young British Am.....	1,000,000	1.00	06
AINSWORTH.			
Delic.....	700,000	1.00	17
Ellen.....	1,000,000	1.00	07 1/2
BOUNDARY			
Old Ironsides.....	1,000,000	1.00	05
CAMP MCKINNEY			
Cariboo.....	800,000	1.00	49
CAMP FAIR VIEW.			
Occidental.....	600,000	1.00	15
NELSON.			
Exchequer.....	1,000,000	1.00	10
Hall Mines.....	2,000,000	2.00	7.00
NORTHPORT.			
Red Top.....	1,000,000	\$1.00	10
ISLOCAN.			
Athabasca.....	1,000,000	1.00	25
Alamo.....	500,000	1.00	10
Bon Diablo.....	75,000	1.00	1.00
Bondholder.....	1,000,000	1.00	06
Buffalo.....	150,000	1.00	25
Cumberland.....	50,000	10.00	08
Dardenelles.....	1,000,000	1.00	22
Grey Eagle.....	750,000	1.00	10
Idler.....	1,000,000	1.00	12 1/2
Kootenay-Columbia.....	400	100.00	100

NEWS NOTES.

The Oriental hotel, Vancouver, has changed hands. Messrs. Grlave & Blanchfield are now the proprietors.

On Monday last the legislature of British Columbia, by a vote of 13 to 12, decided that aliens should not be forbidden the privilege of citizens as to mining in the province; and by a like vote determined that the tax of five dollars levied on miners should remain as heretofore.

John Taylor of London, member of one of the foremost firms of mining financiers in the United Kingdom, is sending a representative out to this country. This move is a strong indication of the reputation our mines are attaining across the Atlantic, as the firm in question are of a very conservative character.

THE HOBOS COMING.

There are an unusual number of people soliciting assistance around town these days, and it is not an uncommon occurrence to be asked for the price of a meal; in fact, it happens very often. No doubt some of these are genuine cases of distress—working men out of employment and money; but by far the greater number belong to the army of hobos who are now making their way through this country. They are a most undesirable element, and the police make an effort to keep them moving; but if they leave town, their places are immediately taken by fresh arrivals of the same fraternity. The police magistrat would experiment with hard work on these fellows. There is no medicine they dislike so much; and if it once becomes generally known among the brotherhood that the emblems of the order here are a ball and chain or leg-irons, they will very soon learn to give Vancouver a wide berth.

MINING LAW REVISION.

The recommendations of the mining committee of the legislature for the amendments to our mining laws have not yet been acted upon. The recognized seriousness of the subject has urged the members to treat the subject with the greatest caution. It is safe to predict that in any event the result of the deliberations will cause dissatisfaction and comment, rational and otherwise, from which future legislators may learn much wisdom of a practical nature which will ultimately prove of inestimable value to the mining industry.

During the week ending Tuesday, May 4th, there were 122 licences issued, 109 claims and 5 conveyances recorded at the New Westminster office. From the first of the year up to date about 650 claims have been recorded.

At the Hall mines, Nelson, a new blast furnace with a capacity of 250 tons

COMPANIES.	NO. OF SHARES.	PAR VALUE	PRICE
Reco.....	1,000,000	1.00	1.50
Slocan Star.....	1,000,000	1.00	2.55
Sunshine.....	50,000	10.00	10
Washington.....	1,000,000	1.00	25
Wonderful.....	1,000,000	1.00	10
REVELSTOCKE.			
Orphan Boy.....	700,000	1.00	06
TEXADA ISLAND.			
Texada Proprietary.....	1,000,000	\$ 1.00	0.25
Van Anda.....	5,000,000	1.00	08
Victoria-Texada.....	600,000	25	25
ALBERNI DIST.			
Alberni M'n Rose.....	250,000	1.00	05
Alberni Con.....	1,000,000	1.00	38
Mineral Creek.....	500,000	1.00	05 1/2
Mineral Hill.....	750,000	1.00	10
Quadra.....	500,000	1.00	10
CARIBOO			
Cariboo Gold Fields.....	100,000	5.00	10.25
Cariboo Hydraulic.....	500,000	1.00	10.25
Horsely Hydraulic.....	200,000	1.00	1.50
Horsely Gold M. Co.....	100,000	10.00	1.50
Slough Creek.....	500,000	1.00	50
LILLOOET DIST.			
Golden Cache.....	500,000	1.00	1.85
Lillooet Gold Reefs.....	200,000	25	25

Dividends paid to date are as follows: Le Rol, \$350,000; Wnr Eagle, \$167,000; Rambler-Cariboo, \$40,000; Reco, \$100,000; Slocan Star, \$300,000; Two Friends, \$30,000; Cariboo, \$141,410. It is estimated that the profits of the mines subjoined have returned the sums placed opposite their respective names:

Payne.....	\$20,000	Goodenough.....	\$15,000
Idaho.....	12,000	Noble Five.....	50,000
Poorman.....	50,000	Northern Belle.....	20,000
Ruth.....	50,000	Antoine.....	10,000
Whitewater.....	40,000	Surprise.....	20,000
Washington.....	20,000	Monitor.....	15,000
Slocan Boy.....	25,000	Last Chance.....	50,000

GOLD IN STREAMS.

Bars which carry good pay ore above low water mark, often carry little or no gold below it.

Coarse gold once deposited in deep water in the bed of the river practically never travels.

Pay streaks found on the bed of the river are often as sharply defined as if formed in a vein of quartz. A few feet below where good pay is obtained not a trace of gold will be found.

No form of dredges yet devised can be expected to give good results under all the different conditions found on a river.

Where the gold lies on bare bedrock, or but slightly covered with gravel, a suction dredge is far superior to any other form.

Where the gold is fine and distributed through deep bodies of gravel, a good form of dipper or bucket dredge is preferable, but the bottom should be afterwards worked over with a suction dredge to clean the bedrock.

Below water mark the gravel rarely exceeds six feet in depth over the bedrock or clay, and averages less than two feet.

The location of valuable pay streaks in the bed of the river can only be done by systematically prospecting every portion of the stream by means of a small steam dredger, after which machines of larger capacity, properly designed to meet the conditions where the pay is found, can be made to yield large returns.

The main events in our local stock market during the week were the declar-

CONCENTRATES.

Seventy-five mines are shippers in the Sloean belt.

The erection of a smelter by the Centre Star, Rossland, is projected.

Favorable reports are heard from the 375-foot shaft of the Le Roi, Rossland.

Eighteen new companies were incorporated during the week ending May 1.

At Silverton the townsite company will erect a large building near Hart's hotel.

It is reported that parties in London are negotiating for the Treasure Mountain mines on Jarvis Inlet.

At Laurie, Revelstoke, the concentrator is running day and night. From 150 to 200 tons of rock are disposed of daily.

A Victoria and Toronto syndicate has purchased the Solo and Solo Best mining claims, Kaslo district, Sloean, for \$12,000.

The Chapleau, situated on Gold creek adjoining the Ranger, Sloean, has been bonded by the Hall Exploration syndicate for \$30,000.

Prospectors from Lillooet, Kootenay and other districts of the province, besides from the United States, have reached Harrison lake.

The journals published in British Columbia are unanimous in their warning to outsiders not to go to the mines "broke" or without friends.

The Dollarocracy Mining Company, operating near the Pen d'Oreille river, Trail district, is owned by the officers and employees of the Columbia & Western railway.

It is stated to be the intention of the government to build a trail from Telegraph creek to Teslin lake, thus opening up an easy route to Yukon through British Columbia.

The water of Harrison lake is now rising, and in a few days it is expected that the steamer Courser will be able to take freight to the points that are now awaiting supplies and materials.

For some time past Cayoosh Creek properties have been in active demand, and numerous parties owners and investors, have visited the scene, returning apparently satisfied of a golden future.

On May 15th a meeting of the shareholders of the Two Friends will be held. The superintendent is now here. Owing to slides and the impossibility of getting supplies, work has been almost wholly suspended.

The Gold Mask, Kamloops, was sold by Jas. H. Russell to Wm. Hudson, of Sandon, B.C., for \$10,000, 10 per cent. cash, \$4,500 on the 26th of July, the remaining \$4,500 in ninety days from last payment.

On the Poorman mine, Eagle creek, considerable development has been done recently, and over one hundred tons of free milling gold ore has been mined and is ready for milling. The ore assays

panies have recently registered in London, England, with an aggregate capital of \$3,525,000. Besides there is one with a capital of \$10,000,000 which is about to turn its attention to the province.

According to the United States Statistician, the gold and silver production of California for 1896 was as follows: Gold, \$17,181,562, being an increase of \$1,847,245 over 1895; silver, \$422,436, a decrease of \$117,353 of the production of 1895.

The Silver Tip, located on the north-west side of Texada Island, is the property of the Texada Proprietary Mines, Limited Liability. We learn that during the past two weeks the time has been partially spent sinking a shaft now 100 feet in depth, and that the ore continues to improve as greater depth is reached.

The mines of the Kootenay made an excellent showing for the first three months of 1897, and the production amounted to nearly \$2,500,000. The ore exported amounted to 16,690 tons, of an average value per ton of about \$74. The product of the smelters (shipped) was a total value of \$1,171,547.18, and of ore and matter exported, \$2,403,820.56.

The gold values of this copper gold camp are surprising considering the amount of development a few months has allowed, is the universal verdict of every expert and mining man (and they now number representatives from all the chief mining centres), that nowhere in the province has such value been shown at the same stage. There are a few honest assays.—*Steveston Miner.*

The first meeting of shareholders of the Vancouver Gold Fields, Ltd., was held on Friday, when the board of directors for the ensuing year was elected as follows: D. G. L. Milne, Victoria, president; J. Johnston, Vancouver, vice-president; John A. McGillivray, Q. C., ex-M. P., Toronto; R. Y. Milne, Buffalo, N.Y.; R. W. Harris, Vancouver, and Charles E. Hope, Vancouver, directors; R. B. Ellis, secretary. The company has decided to proceed with the development of its different properties as rapidly as possible and hopes to be able to show good results very soon.

THE SQUAMISH VALLEY:

A PROPHECY.

Here, 'mid the glories of rich nature's spoil,
Must human creatures spend in endless toll?
The secrets of the rocks are yet untold:
Yet they shall speak aloud in words of gold—
Gold to make rich, in spirit and in fact.
These valleys shall rejoice, and barren tract
Shall sing with gladness at the glittering ore.
Which comes to bring us happiness once more.

A BEAUTIFUL BAIT.

Here is a beautiful bait now dangling before the stock certificate gatherers in the East. It is to be seen in the news columns of papers that might be called Journalistic prostitutes. This is the bait:

IBEX WILL ADVANCE AGAIN.

Owing to the enormous quantity of high-grade ore blocked out at the Ibez mine—nearly \$2,000,000 worth—the directors feel justified in announcing another advance in the treasury shares, of which only a few remain unsold. The advance will take place May 10, and will set the price at 40 cents. It is expected that the shares will reach a high figure this summer, as the company is now in a position to ship largely and continuously.

Isn't that lovely?

Just think of it! Only 40 cents a share and nearly two millions in sight. Some departmental store ought to put this stock on its bargain counter. How the suckers would rush for it, in their mad desire to obtain such a snap. Something should be done in this matter. No company can afford to give away such a fortune and still pay for fine ads. Why, it is a greater bargain than those fellows in New York offer when they advertise to send you nice greenbacks for 10 cents on the dollar. We trust the directors of this wonderful two-million-in-sight proposition will not bankrupt themselves in order to show to the world how generous they are.—*The Ledge, New Denver, B. C.*

CERTAIN PROSPECTORS.

Ike Hayden, of the Squamish, and three others leave this week to prospect the country beyond Seaton lake and the Bridge river.

He has had great experience in the old days, and understands thoroughly the nature of quartz; he has also the reputation of knowing how to open up a claim second to none. One of the party is a practical assayer, so they will not have to send samples of ore to see if the claims are worth staking.

Within the next three months we expect to be able to announce the result of this prospecting trip, and shall be surprised if it is not one of considerable importance to the province.

These men are of the kind we refer to in another column, who will take up properties that have at least the indication of valuable mineral in sufficient quantity to justify nominal outlay at the beginning.

PERSONAL.

Mr. A. Gillfillan has returned from Harrison lake.

Mr. George Turner, superintendent of the Two Friends, is here.

Mr. W. G. Tretheway is about to visit the Providence mine. He will remain a week.

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B. C. MINING CRITIC,

VANCOUVER, B.C.

Mr. John Wafer has gone to the Sibean in the interests of the Kokanee Mining Co., Ltd.

Mr. James F. Smith, well known in Vancouver, has gone to Rossland to "try his luck."

Mr. Robert Jamieson has resigned as engineer of the Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Gold Fields.

Mr. G. W. Willis leaves this week for Channeton, to visit the White Pine claim, and the Gertrude and Gypswick claims.

Mrs. Carson, of Vancouver, has entered the dining and bedrooms of the Denver House and will be ready for business this week.

Mr. J. A. Fraser has been appointed secretary-treasurer of the Channe Mining Co., in place of Mr. A. C. Brydone-Jack, resigned.

Captain Westerland who located several fine free gold propositions on Cayoose creek, left the city last week in pursuit of more gold.

On Sunday last Mr. V. W. Haywood, ex-sergeant of police of Vancouver, accompanied by C. W. Eaton and A. G. Addison, left here for the Yukon, via Seattle.

Mr. W. H. Brooking, from Winnipeg, is located now in Vancouver. He contemplates engaging in mining developments, and has left for the inspection of mines in northern parts.

On Sunday Mr. Arthur Wheeler, of Vancouver, returned from Kamloops and Nicola. He reports unusual activity in the latter place; while the former, he says, is ahead of the general times.

H. C. Ludorf, of Seattle, who is deeply interested in mining affairs in British Columbia, is now here. He intends to leave shortly for the Lillooet district, and on his return to locate here.

Messrs. Pim, Vaughan & Co., Haes & Son, Vivian Grey & Co., Browning, Todd & Whish, A. J. Schwabe & Co. and Lumsden & Myres, are a few of the brokers of London, England, keenly interested in British Columbia mines.

After a week's absence Mr. Frank S. Taggart, of Vancouver, has returned from Alberni. He made examination of the late discoveries at Uchuchlesit arm and Anderson lake and speaks hopefully of the future of the district, though little development work has as yet been done there.

Mr. D. W. Cleddenan, special correspondent of the *Banker, Merchant and Manufacturer* of Chicago, is now making a tour of inspection of the mines with the purpose of supplying the readers of that journal and the mining market with reliable information. The gentleman is

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