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British Columbia Mining Critic.

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

WEEKLY EDITION.

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EDITORIAL.

VANCOUVER AND THE YUKON TRADE.

Mr. John R. Wolcott, of Seattle, after, as is natural, making the best of the case for his own American city as an outfitting center and point of embarkation for the Yukon, makes also, in the course of a very ably written recent article, the following suggestive reference to the position and possibilities of our city of Vancouver: "Natural causes and railway terminals have," he says, "placed Seattle and Vancouver in a position to control this great trade. It is seldom that such trade opportunities come to any city. Seattle is keenly alive to the importance of this trade, and will fully protect her own interests. Will Vancouver also grasp the trade that is begging at her door? Vancouver's fight for the Northwest Territory trade is not with Seattle, but with Victoria, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal. It is Vancouver for headquarters of the Northwest Territory trade as against the other Canadian cities. The important and most profitable feature of the trade is its permanency, for it is a trade for many years. To secure and hold a large share of the Northwest Territory trade to Vancouver requires the immediate organization of a strong transportation and trading company with headquarters at Vancouver, and which will promptly place on the Stikine, Yukon, Stewart and Pelly and other rivers a strong fleet of steamers and

barges, establish trading posts throughout the Northwest Territory, a supply depot in Vancouver, and establish numerous other matters necessary and profitable. This is the first and all-important step, and is to be followed by several other matters greatly to the advantage of Vancouver—as the establishment of fruit and vegetable evaporators, condensed milk works, and a variety of manufacturing interests required by the trade, all of which will be greatly extended by the development later on of the great mineral resources of British Columbia. The trade with the mining regions alone is ample to make Vancouver the second city north of San Francisco. To establish a depot, gather supplies, assemble a river fleet, and acquire interests in lines already established, requires energetic action, the enterprise is a sound and highly profitable one, and will be the making of Vancouver."

Most will admit the general accuracy and local applicability of the above remarks, even granting—as is the opinion of the MINING CRITIC—that the Yukon boom is based too largely upon exaggeration, whilst the bulk of the gold of the far north country will probably be either got out or practically exhausted in but a few years. For, notwithstanding these facts or possibilities, certain it is that for several years there must be a large and profitable supply trade to be done with the Canadian Yukon, or rather with the big host of gold seekers there for a time settling. There is, moreover, excellent reason to believe that far more permanent, far more accessible, and far more generally productive regions—geographically tributary in large part to our own port of Vancouver—will, as a result of the Yukon boom, be opened and developed in Cassiar, in Omineca, and in other outlying areas, situate to the north of us, yet within our own rich Province. But with the exception of the important transport proposals of the C. P. R., and certain smaller developments of the Union Steamship Company, and with the exception also of promising extensions of our outfitting trade of distribution, little indeed is being done by or in behalf of Vancouver, to take advantage of the many and varied opportunities suggested in Mr. Wolcott's letter. Far more is meanwhile being done in and by Victoria, which is by nature a less suitable cen-

ter for Yukon trade and less convenient point of Yukon departure, the capital city of the Province having somehow succeeded in gaining the ear of Sir Charles Tupper, of Mr. Herschell Cohen, and of many another shrewd organizer of British joint stock capital to be employed largely in the Yukon country and in northern British Columbia. It is indeed strange that notwithstanding the existence and efforts of such a body as the Vancouver Board of Trade, and despite also the fact that Vancouver is the terminal of the C. P. R., which can, and doubtless will, open up and make available absolutely the best route to the northern gold fields, so large a proportion of trade of the Yukon and Cassiar countries seems likely to pass over to Victoria.

The best chance for Vancouver lies seemingly in the fact that when northern trade possibilities begin to be fully considered—rather later in the year—by British and other capitalists seeking new fields for industrial enterprise, some of the most capable of these can scarcely fail to recognize the superior, if not supreme, natural and acquired advantages of Vancouver as a center of trade distribution.

Meanwhile, without seeking to expand the Yukon boom—a thing which we hold to be, under the circumstances, undesirable and, indeed, unjustifiable—it is possible for large numbers of our citizens of Vancouver, in the course of their communications with friends and correspondents in the world at large, to point out very clearly the really exceptional advantages of our own city as a center for northern trade. A similar effort has—on their own behalf, of course—been done for some time and is still being done by the people of Victoria, whose example is, in this respect at least, worth following. The Provincial capital is by no means the "sleepy burgh" which too many of us in Vancouver would fain imagine the place, for if, during a brief period, lethargy seemed to be rather settling down on Victoria, the people of that city have now for some time been very much alive to their opportunities, and made, as a rule, excellent use of them. Hence it will, for a period, "take Vancouver all its time," to use a familiar but expressive phrase, to obtain a due proportion of the coming commercial advantages of the striking developments now proceeding up north. The necessarily resulting growth of British Columbian trade and population ought surely to be divided between the two leading ports and commercial centers of the Province, and if Vancouver's people prove alert and resourceful, shared it will be. But to secure this, greater local energy is assuredly needed, than is now outwardly apparent, as Vancouver's advantages of situation and railroad facilities are, in the case of Victoria, offset by that city's long-acquired hold of much northern trade and by the larger relative control of capital, which the merchants of the Provincial capital still possess.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

British Columbia is, by reason of ever-growing customs, inland revenue, postal receipts, and fisheries contributions to the Dominion revenue, establishing an irrefutable claim to far more liberal treatment by the National Government at Ottawa, which largely continues the traditional Dutch policy "of giving too little and asking too much" of our own heavily taxed Province. The increase, for 1897, of customs revenue at Vancouver alone—a gain of well nigh \$100,000—is of itself more than enough to pay the accruing interest on the Crow's Nest railway subsidy, in respect of which our Eastern Canadian members of parliament make, without the slightest ground, big demands on British Columbia's gratitude. Meanwhile there are large gains in the inland revenue collections of Vancouver island and the mainland, whilst the customs revenue of the Kootenay country increases by leaps and bounds, and the returns from the New Westminster and Victoria districts also show very satisfactory enlargements of yield. Hence, as matters stand, British Columbia is contributing to the national revenue largely in excess of an equitable proportion, and receiving in return—especially as regards Vancouver—little indeed. British Columbia has, as concerning revenue production, become the milch cow of confederation, a fact of which those that be in power at far-away Ottawa cannot be too frequently reminded, until something approaching justice shall be done to British Columbia. The mention of these things is made in no partisan spirit, for Ottawa administrations are, regardless of their party stripe, alike guilty of niggardly disregard of the rights of our Pacific Province, and seem likely so to continue until the time comes when Western Canada holds the balance of power in Dominion politics, a date perhaps after all not so very distant. Meanwhile there should certainly be taken a quinquennial instead of a decennial census of Canada's population, as under the present ten-year system the statutory per caput contribution of the Dominion to British Columbia becomes a few years after each census, far below what it should be, the yearly percentage growth of population with us being hugely in excess of that of any of the Eastern Provinces, and certain so to continue for an indefinite period.

Strongly capitalized as is the British America Corporation, with its board of high placed and exceptionally capable directors, the company has not escaped considerable adverse criticism in England and elsewhere. The vague, and as has since transpired, rather inaccurate details given in the prospectus in part justified the censure, and the great undertaking was evidently promoted somewhat hastily. The financial editor of *To-Day*, a well-known London weekly, in particular censures the

Marquis of Dufferin for permitting a company under his direction to issue a prospectus full of so many generalities and equipped with relatively few exact details. However, the venture "caught on," the capital being oversubscribed, largely as a result of the exceptional status of the directorate, and the Corporation has before it really brilliant opportunities, provided only that its big capital of £1,500,000 be carefully husbanded and well laid out. And, despite the denials of the men of the Le Roi Company, there is reason to believe that through a strong parent organization—the London and Globe Finance Corporation—the British American Corporation has some kind of an option on the Le Roi mine. The option does not expire until the 21st instant, and in the meanwhile an expert examination of the Le Roi property will be made on behalf of the prospective British purchasers. On the result of this will depend the action of the British America Corporation in the matter. This is vouched by the Spokane Spokesman-Review, which is very likely to know the truth.

Less satisfactory in one all-important respect is the news from the Vancouver Island coal fields, where at the Alexandria and E. & N. Extension, and other collieries of the Dunsmuir companies, cheap Mongol labor is, both above and below ground, steadily taking the place of white workers. Hence, unless the hitherto abortive Provincial law, preventing the underground employment of Mongols, be amended and enforced, only a short time will elapse ere the New Vancouver Coal Company will also, in self-defense against keen business competition, be forced largely to substitute Chinese for white labor. When this happens, serious labor troubles are certain as the day, whilst a heavy blow will be struck at the general trade of the Nanaimo district, which will, if the population become very largely Chinese, shrink to very small proportions, the Mongol being usually a very poor customer of the white merchant, from whom he purchases little and that cheaply.

Interesting developments of the Province's coal mining may shortly be expected. The first shipment of coal from the Crows Nest colliery to Fort Steele, which is just about to be made, marking the beginning of what is sure to prove a huge development of coal mining on the mainland. The coal that is about to be sent to Fort Steele is of special grade for use in smithy work, and will at first be available in modest quantity only. But ere July 10,000 tons of good coal of varying grade will be ready for shipment from the Crows Nest colliery, whence, ere the close of 1898, it is expected that shipments will be made aggregating at least 50,000 tons. A considerable amount of coke will also, later in the year, be produced at ovens which are yet to be built and fired in the Crow's Nest pass. But the colliery's

work of 1898 will, of course, prove but a comparatively small beginning of great things.

Whilst the ultimate fate of the Golden Cache mine remains and will for some time remain in suspense, it is satisfactory to learn that another largely free-milling gold mine, in which Vancouver and other British Columbian capital is interested, the Fern, at Ymir, promises very well indeed, since to \$15,145, the gross value of a recent first clean-up, there are now to be added \$13,200 as the result of a second clean-up at the same mine. As the stamps at work number only 10, an aggregate return of \$28,345 from two short runs of comparatively low-grade ore appears to be quite satisfactory. So the directors evidently esteem it, for they will forthwith double the stamps and prepare, too, for treating a large body of concentrates.

There will evidently be stern-wheel steamers galore afloat on the Stickine this summer, the construction of at least a dozen being already under contract. Two of them will, as regards their machinery, be equipped at the British Columbia Ironworks in Vancouver, their hulks being built by Mr. J. H. Moir, of New Westminster. The Albion Ironworks and Victoria shipbuilders will together construct others. Hence assured and satisfactory developments of our Province's engineering and wooden ship building industries.

OUR COAL SHIPMENTS.

The Nanaimo district's coal shipments for last month amounted to 59,696 tons, of which the mines of the New Vancouver Coal Company accounted for 27,376 tons, the Wellington collieries for 20,920 tons, and the Union mines for 11,400 tons. The total coal output of the British Columbia collieries for 1897 amounted to 798,458 tons, as against 845,269 tons in 1896. It is, however, practically certain that with the growth of a demand for coke and for coal fuel for the north, as also for the steadily increasing cities of the Province, the Province's coal output of 1898 will greatly exceed that of 1897, and in all probability attain the highest point on record. To this the opening and working of the mainland collieries in the Crows Nest district should noticeably contribute, as these mines are sure to make in 1898 a respectable first output.

CHINESE IN THE ISLAND COLLIERIES.

The Nanaimo Review notes with alarm—being an advocate of white colliery labor—the fact that Chinese work is steadily increasing in numbers both above and below ground at the E. & N. Extension and Alexandria collieries. Thence white labor is gradually but surely being expelled, except as regards superintendence.

Current Mining News.

Contributions from any part of British Columbia and the mining districts of a reliable nature will be published in these columns, and we request that mining men write us about the progress of the mines of their district. We desire to publish all mining news.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN CORPORATION AND THE LE ROI MINE.

Col. W. W. D. Turner, president of the Le Roi company, strongly denies the statement of the British American Corporation's directors that it has an option on the Le Roi mine. No company has any such option, though the owners of the Le Roi are open to consider offers, though certain not to sell for less than \$5,000,000. So says the Colonel.

THE FERN MINE.

The bullion obtained from the second clean-up at this partly free-milling gold mine of the Nelson district runs to the satisfactory value of \$13,200, the ore treated being of comparatively low grade. The first clean-up realized \$15,145. The second clean-up was the result of a 30 days' run of the 10-stamp mill, which is now again at work. The Fern directors state also that in the lower tunnel a chute of rich shipping ore, running to \$125 a ton and upwards, has just been struck. Ten more stamps will be put in without delay.

QUITE A CURIOSITY.

As handsome a mounted deer head as one usually sees is now on exhibition in the show window at the City Drug Store. It is the property of Arthur Noel. The deer from which this head was taken was killed by Mr. Noel in the mountains of British Columbia, and is known as the mule or black-tail deer. This one weighed 510 pounds. Mr. Noel says they are never seen but up in the mountains. The horns on this head has 22 points, and differs considerably from the horns and head of the Wisconsin deer.—Merrill News.

PLATINUM AND IRIIDIUM.

Workers of British Columbia placer mines will do well to send to the Provincial Mineralogist at Victoria, for assay, samples of the black or gray sand found in their workings, which may in some cases contain valuable deposits of platinum or iridium—rare metals of high value, the presence of which in dull-looking sand often escapes notice. Iridium is in particular worth more than gold. No charge will be made for the test, which may perchance lead to valuable discoveries of the two metals now sought, each of which is usually found in juxtaposition with flour gold.

THE GALENA MINES.

It is stated that a concentrator will shortly be erected at these mines and the present working force increased, there being a somewhat better showing of ore as a result of a recent strike. But the fact remains that the owning company can only by something approaching the miraculous, earn decent dividends on its absurdly inflated capital. British investors will therefore be wise if they continue to leave the stock in this company largely in the hands of the promoters and underwriters. It is abundantly clear that these last are, through the press of the Slocan district, seeking to boom the mine for more than it is worth, in order no doubt to unload on the British public. The *Silver-tonian*, for example, contains in a recent issue so highly eulogistic an article on the Galena Mines, Limited, and its management, that the reader would from it imagine, that there seldom or ever was so skilful and public spirited an undertaking. We may shortly expect to learn that this obviously inspired puff has been quoted at some meeting of the company in proof of the alleged favor with which local opinion regards one of the worst British Columbia flotations yet made in London.

THE HALL MINES SMELTER.

The 250-ton blast furnace at this smelter was again blown in on New Year's day, when the four roosters and reverberatory furnaces were also fired. The firing of a lead furnace will follow shortly, and treat a goodly amount of lead-bearing ore from the Slocan country generally, and, in particular, from the Two Friends, Evening Star, Idaho and Bullion mines. Some 1,500 tons of the Silver King's ore are also on hand, and dry ores are coming in steadily from the Athabasca and several other claims on Toad mountain. Everything points to a busy and prosperous year for the Hall Mines, Limited, in connection alike with its mining at the Silver King and smelting operations at the great Nelson works.

THE JOSIE MINE.

It is stated that since the purchase of this noted Rossland mine the broken ledge on this mine has been recovered in the east drift of the 300-foot level, with ore results of \$32 in gold, plus 6 per cent copper: A good thing this, if fully authenticated by early results—for the purchasing company.

NATIVE COPPER AT KAMLOOPS.

It is stated that talcose rock containing a very large percentage of native copper is now being got out on the Bonanza-Pothooks claims at Coal Hill, near Kamloops, in the course of development work that is now at an early stage. There is accordingly much local satisfaction.

THE LYNN CREEK CLAIMS.

Mr. Varco, the owner of the Lynn claim, on Lynn creek, North Vancouver, antagonizes the statement that the Findlay syndicate of Vancouver threw up the option on the claims by reason of the disappointing nature of the ore and the presence of too much zinc. The option was abandoned, so he states, by reason of inability on the part of the syndicate to secure the necessary further capital, those associated in the venture differing in opinion as to management and other methods. The owner, who is developing the claim, states that he has exposed an ore body eight feet in width, with ore assaying nearly \$50, mostly in copper; and also asserts that the main ledge is free from zinc. He is sanguine of good results in the early future, and holds strongly by the mineral possibilities of Lynn creek.

AND IT'S TRUE.

The Slocan mining district has been damaged more through the practice of companies placing men in charge of the workings of the mine, regardless of their experience as mining men, simply because they had a "pull" on some of the members of the company, than all other influences combined. Good properties have, for the time being, been ruined, and the district in which they were situated received a "black eye" by the properties being thrown up as worthless, and large sums of money squandered. Time alone will convince the inexperienced investor in mines that a pair of yellow leggings does not make an expert miner.—Silvertonian.

THE FAIRVIEW CONSOLIDATED AND THE SMUGGLER.

The Fairview Company will, it is stated, this spring erect and begin to work a 20-stamp mill, the Smuggler a 60-stamp one. The Consolidated needs the larger mill as the company owns sixteen claims. This year should give a good test of the value of the free-milling gold deposits of the promising district of Fairview, which, like Lillooet, attracts increasing attention in England. On the fate of these two districts the early future of free-gold mining in British Columbia largely now depends.

THE PILOT BAY CONCENTRATOR.

This concentrator will make, pending the reblowing in of the owning company's smelter, 500 shipments of concentrates to the smelter at Omaha.

A MINE SALE.

The Blue Bird Mining Company holds a general meeting at Kaslo on the 12th instant, with a view to make a sale of the property.

THE WORLD'S GOLD OUTPUT.

The director of the United States mint at Washington states that, from information now at hand, there is substantial evidence that the world's product of gold for the calendar year, 1897 will approximate, if not exceed \$240,000,000, an increase of nearly 20 per cent. over that of 1896. The gold product of the United States for 1896 was \$53,100,000; for 1897 it will approximate \$61,500,000, an increase of \$8,500,000. The product of Africa for 1896 was \$44,400,000; returns received up to December 1, 1897, indicate that the gold product of that country, for the year, will be \$58,000,000, an increase of \$13,600,000. Australasia's product for 1896 was \$45,200,000; for 1897, the indications are that it will not be less than \$51,000,000, an increase of \$5,800,000. Mexico, for 1896, shows \$8,330,000; for 1897, it is estimated that it will be \$10,000,000, an increase of \$1,670,000. The Dominion of Canada, for 1896, produced \$2,800,000; it is estimated that for 1877 the output will be \$7,500,000, or an increase of \$4,700,000. India's product for 1897 is estimated at \$7,500,000, an increase of \$1,400,000 over 1896. Russia's gold product for 1896 was \$21,550,000; for 1897 it is estimated to approximate \$25,000,000, an increase of \$3,500,000. From which it is in particular evident, that though our Dominion's gold yield is steadily advancing, having far more than doubled in the year just ended, Canada's gold output is far yet from its zenith of possible attainment. At present the Dominion yields a thirty-second part of the world's gold output.

THE SLAUGHTER OF WILD CAT COMPANIES.

Now begins a general slaughter and dissolution of a host of wild cat mining companies, last year organized in British Columbia with nominal capitals of \$1,000,000, of which, as a rule, not more than \$2,000 to \$3,000 were afterwards at most subscribed. These companies will not be able to pay Provincial registration fees, which, adjusted mainly ad valorem, will call for an outlay of about \$400. Hence, within a month or so we shall hear no more of nine-tenths of the hastily organized mining companies of 1897. Many, but not all, of the remaining tenth of those then organized will survive, and a smaller fraction of these in due course ship ore and pay dividends. There are probably now about a hundred British Columbia precious metal mining companies that "mean business." Last year there were hundreds of others—on paper. The change is distinctly for the better, and fortunately the aggregate loss of capital involved in the disappearance of the wild cats is not large. Most of them failed to gather in much more than enough to pay for printing, office and other preliminary expenses of attempted flotation.

A CHINESE KLONDIKE.

The present rush to the Klondike gold fields revives interest in the diggings in the Sheltuga valley, whose reputed wealth caused many adventurers to plunge into the little-known regions of Manchuria. A German-Russian paper, the 'Tageblatt, Riga, relates how these gold fields were discovered, and why the world suddenly failed to hear any more about them. The Russian government, we are told, did not like the establishment of a "republic" which attracted Russian diggers. We take the following from our contemporary's account:

"In 1883 a Russian prospector discovered gold in the Sheltuga valley, in Northern Manchuria. He told an engineer named Lebedkin of his discovery, and the latter started with a party of workmen to exploit the rich mines. He was, however, an intemperate man, and died of alcoholism. The men, left to themselves, began to work the mines on their own account. The news of the wealth of Sheltuga soon was told in the countries watered by the Amur and in Transbaikalia, and thousands of men started for the new El Dorado. Among them were adventurers from all parts of the world—Americans, Germans, Frenchmen, Englishmen—altogether some 12,000 men gathered there in 1895, among them about 500 Chinese. Drunkenness, immorality, robbery, and murder reigned supreme. At last the diggers got tired of anarchy, and elected an energetic, honest, but very strict man as their head, forming a little republic for the purpose. The gold-bearing country was divided into five districts; for each the newly elected dictator appointed a chief. His laws were extremely draconic. Thus theft was punished by 500 blows with a cat-o'-nine-tails, studded with nails—hence the culprit died under the lash. Men caught importing lewd women received 400 blows with a cane. Two hundred blows were administered for disturbing the camp at night, 100 blows for drunkenness. Thirty men were hanged at the dictator's orders on the first day of his term, and for two weeks the cat-o'-nine tails never rested. After that the camp was as orderly as a Sunday-school picnic. All those who felt that a community where order is maintained did not suit them, left for pastures new, and there was every hope that the little republic would prosper. But the Russian government did not like it. The Russian workmen ran away from the government mines, and the government did not receive its usual amount of precious metals. Russia, therefore, induced the Chinese government to break up the republic, which had been established without the knowledge and consent of the mandarins. A force of 2,000 horsemen and 1,000 infantry, with two guns, was sent to the Sheltuga valley. The diggers would not leave. A battle took place, and

the adventurers were killed almost to a man; only 27 escaped. Five hundred Chinese were left to garrison the place, and the Sheltuga gold is now dug by the almond-eyed subjects of the 'Son of Heaven' only."

NOTORIOUS BOOMERS.

The Victoria Colonist continues, *conte que conte*, to boom Klondike by exaggerating enormously its utmost possibilities of wealth-earning, whilst Seattle and Victoria correspondents vie with one another in telegraphing to New York and cabling to England quite fabulous estimates of the gold and bank drafts "brought home" by returning Yukoners, many of whom are possessed of little enough. A day of reckoning will surely come for these things. Apart from considerations of morality, it were surely better far for these boomers to stay their hands and pens, as already more than enough would-be Yukon gold seekers have determined to take chances and make for dreary Dawson. To cater for these men will tax the utmost resources of Victoria, Seattle and Vancouver, the people of which last city have, fortunately for their good repute, largely held their hands and restrained themselves from booming. So, too, has hitherto the press of the Terminal City.

SANDON INCORPORATED.

This busy Slocan mine center will this month elect its first city council and begin a career of local self-governing existence in lieu of dependence upon the decisions of men in office in distant Victoria. Distinctly a change for the better. The less any provincial administration has to do with the purely local development and improvement of an urban district the better. The best of provincial governments will find more than enough to do in controlling the broad general administration of the country and in promoting wise and necessary legislation.

THE LE ROI SMELTER.

The Le Roi's foreign smelter at Northport is now ready to receive ore, and will begin treating Rossland ores next week. The smelter has two furnaces, each of 150 tons capacity, but only one will be started at first.

AN AMALGAMATION.

It is stated that the Monte Cristo and Colonna mining companies are about to be amalgamated, a matter not difficult to arrange, as the mines adjoin each other and are under the same manager.

The number of those in Vancouver bound for the Yukon is being daily augmented. Several parties have lately reached the city and are making arrangements to go north in February.

GOLD MINING BY QUARRY PROCESS.

Many of the common metals are mined in various parts of the world by the quarry process, but in very few places are the precious metals found so situated that this method can be used. A correspondent of the Mineral Industry, writing from Alaska, states that there are two places in the United States where gold mines are worked as open quarries. One is on the Homestake property at Deadwood, S. D., and the other is on the Alaska-Treadwell, of Alaska. The correspondent describes the latter, calling the open pit a funnel, as follows:

The larger axis of this funnel extends across at the surface somewhat over 1,000 feet; the shorter diameter is perhaps 500 feet. The point of the funnel is down about 300 feet. The whole area is open to the sky. Up along the edges are men that look like pigmies drilling holes for blasting with compressed air fed through hose from the works. The holes are generally drilled about eight feet deep into projecting spurs, and ropes securely fastened above are dropped down past the workmen to assist them in going up and down.

Down at the bottom of this huge funnel are men, mostly Indians, sledging the larger rocks into smaller pieces. The Indians get \$2 per day for this work, without board; white men get the same and board. The work is dangerous. Any amount of rocks are hanging around the sides, ready to go tumbling and bounding down at any time.

This crater is called the "glory hole." It is open about all the time for men wanting work, but white men are not tumbling over each other to secure jobs. A man killed or hurt is a common occurrence, and there are no laws to recover damages. For that matter, there are no particular laws of any kind. But more of this in another letter.

I watched the workmen making a blast. The mine superintendent and myself were standing in the mouth of an old tunnel, used when the shaft bottom was not so low down, but now abandoned, as a lower shaft tunnel has taken its place.

At a signal we took cover further in, as the blasting, though across from us 400 feet, was still 200 feet higher up, and fragments might reach us. There came a deafening and ringing report. The air was filled with pieces and a cataract of rocks went down the nearly perpendicular slope. Five more reports followed in quick succession, and a regular avalanche—I should say at least 60 or 80 tons of rocks—went thundering down 285 feet. Some of these pieces would weigh several tons. The workmen at the bottom had taken refuge in caves dug in the sides, and came forth to their work when the storm was over.

All this material is dropped through a shaft at one side, at the extreme low point of the pit, into a still lower tunnel coming in from the works, and

taken thence to the crushers on iron cars pulled by a dinkey locomotive.

Of course a heavy mass of this rock accumulates at the bottom, wider at the base and narrower at the top, and, as the material is taken away below to go down the shaft into the underneath tunnel, slides of this loose rock take place, often overwhelming the workmen. This is the dangerous part. This slope of loose stuff may extend more than 100 feet high, and the rocks gather a high velocity in making the descent.

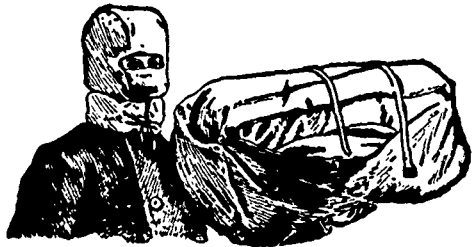
To the above we may add that in Colorado there are operations in which large bodies of low grade, or even very rich ore, scattering through a large body of rock, are worked on a large scale by an open cut or quarry, rather than by the usual shaft and tunnel. At Leadville, for many years the Antioch mine, and at Silver Cliff, the Racine Boy, and other ore deposits were worked in this fashion. At the Antioch they found a huge body of porphyry impregnated more or less with low-grade gold ore, seldom exceeding \$5 on an average to the ton. This was developed by a big open quarry, nearly 100 feet deep, 100 feet wide, and over 100 feet in length. As it was impossible to sort the ore, the quarry material was run from the mine direct by chutes into a large stamp mill and treated. Only by such development and treatment on a large scale was it for a time successful.

At Silver Cliff a horizontal body of rhyolite lava deeply stained with oxide of iron and manganese was found to carry near the surface, and more or less through its mass, very rich horn silver deposits. This plateau was forthwith worked over several acres by an open quarry from 20 to 50 feet deep, without any particular system or order until a zone was reached in which it is said the rich ore no longer continued. Some of the mines around Silver Creek are developed by an open cut like a railroad cut straight through a hill; others by an open, crater-like pit 75 or more feet wide and as many deep.—Mines and Minerals.

KLONDIKE'S ESTIMATED WEALTH.

Captain Healy, manager of the North American Transportation and Mining Company, estimates that the output of gold from winter drift mining was about \$2,000,000, and that from summer sluicing between \$500,000 and \$700,000. As to the probable yield for the coming winter and summer, the estimates depend upon the number of men that will be employed. If wages shall not exceed \$1 an hour, and no rich discoveries draw many men away, Edgar Mizner, the secretary of the Mineowners' Association, says the yield should reach \$11,000,000 from these sources: El Dorado, \$4,000,000; Bonanza, \$4,000,000; Hunker, \$1,500,000; small creeks and branches of these, and side-hill claims,

\$500,000, and from other creeks in the district, \$1,000,000. Captain Healy says that with wages at \$15 a day the yield may not exceed \$5,000,000, for in that case the richest mines would make small outputs, while the poorer mines being worked on lays, would not be affected." There is nothing in the largest even of these figures to justify the expected inrush to the Yukon of some 200,000 people.



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36-39

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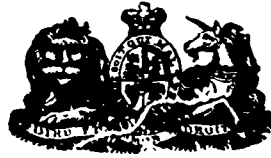
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Owners of Placer Claims are invited to send a few ounces of the black or grey sand obtained in washing the gravel for gold, to the "Provincial Mineralogist, Bureau of Mines, Victoria," stating the name of the creek from which the sand is taken, and its locality.

It is believed that PLATINUM, and perhaps IRIDIUM, are frequently passed over and lost by the prospector, as they have much the appearance of iron in the sand. These minerals are as valuable as gold, the latter more so, and if the placer claim owners will send the black or grey sand as aforesaid it will be assayed and the results given to the owner.

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36-39

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“WALK!”

The following incident is supposed to have occurred in the early 50's, near a little town in Shasta county, California, named Muletown, where for a while gold was as easy to get out of the ground as whisky is to get from over a bar at Dawson City now. The roads leading from Muletown down through the valley of Sacramento river were then, as they are yet, probably the dustiest in California, and to follow behind a freight “outfit” for any considerable distance would certainly be a great punishment. Although the incident occurred forty years ago, men of the mining camps are just as foolish today as they were then.—Canadian Mining Review.

Up the dusty road from Denver town,
To where the mines their treasures hide,
The road is long, and many miles
The golden store and town divide.

Along this road one summer day
There toiled a tired man,
Begrimed with dust, the weary way
He cussed as some folks can.

The stranger hailed a passing team
That slowly dragged its load along,
His hail raised up the teamster old,
And checked his merry song.

“Say, stranger!” “Wal, who-o-ap!”
“Ken I walk behind your load
A spell on this yer road?”
“Wal no, yer can't walk, but git
Up on the seat and ride. Git up hyar.”
“No-up, that aint what I want;
Fer it's in yer dust, that's like a smudge,
I want to trudge, for I deserve it.”
“Wal pard, I aint no hog, and I don't
Own this road afore nor 'hind;
So just git in the dust and walk,
If that's the way you're 'clined.”
“Gee up! ger lang!” the driver said,
The creaking wain moved on amain;
The teamster heard the stranger talk,
As if two trudged behind his van;
Yet looking back could only spy
A single lonely man.
Yet heard the teamster words like these
Come from the dust as from a cloud,
For the weary traveller spoke his mind,
His thoughts he uttered loud.
And this the burden of his talk:
“Walk now, yer damn fool, walk;
Not the way yer went to Denver,
Walk, gol darn yer, walk;
Went to the mines and made yer stake,
'Nuff to take yer back to the State
Whar yer was born.
Whar in hell's yer corn?”

Wal, Walk, damn yer. walk.
Dust in your eyes, dust in your rose,
Dust down yer throat, and thick
On yer clothes. Can't hardly talk,
I know it, but walk, damn yer walk.
What did yer do with all yer tin?
Y-e-s, blew every cent of it in.
Got drunk—got sober—got drunk agin!
Wal, walk, damn yer, just walk.
What did yer do? What didn't yer do?
Why when yer war thar yer gold dust flew.
Yer thought it were fine to keep opening wine,
Now walk, you son of a biscuit, walk.
Stop to drink? What, water! water!!!!
Why the water with you wern't anywhar!
It was wine—extra dry—oh! you flew high,
Now walk, damn yer, just walk.
Chokes yer this dust? Wal, that ain't the wust,
When yer get back to whar the diggings are,
No pick, no shovel, no pan. Wal, you're a healthy
man,
So walk, gol darn yer—just walk.
The fools don't all go to Denver town,
Nor do they all to the mines come down;
Most of us all have in our day,
In some sort of shape, some kind of way,
Painted the town with the same old stuff,
Dipped in stocks, made some bluff,
Mixed wines, old and new,
Got caught in wedlock by a shrew,
Stayed out all night, tight,
Rolled home in the morning light,
With crumpled tie and torn clawhammer,
And woke up next morning with a “katzenjam-
mer,”
And walked, yes —us how we walked?
Now don't try to yank every bun,
Don't try to have all the fun;
Don't think you know it all,
Don't think real estate won't fall;
Don't try to bluff on an ace,
Don't get stuck on a pretty face;
Don't believe every “jay's” talk,
For if you do—
You can bet your sweet life you'll walk.”

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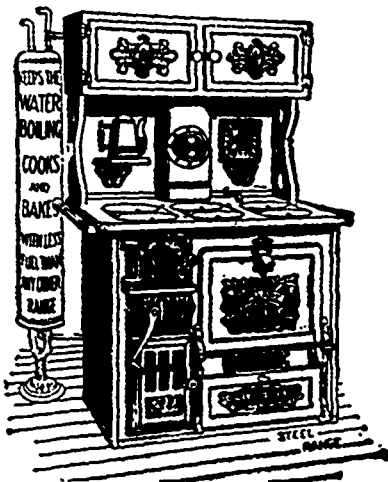
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Arrive Northport 12:15 p.m.; Rossland, 3:40 p.m.; Spokane, 6 p.m.
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" 9:36 "	Sproule's	" 2:15 "
" 9:51 "	Whitewater	" 2:00 "
" 10:01 "	Bear Lake	" 1:45 "
" 10:18 "	McGulgan	" 1:30 "
" 10:28 "	Junction	" 1:15 "
Ar 10:50 "	Sandon	Lv 1:00 "

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Arrives at Trail 3:50 p.m.
No. 4 passenger (daily)
Leaves Rossland 11:00 a.m.
Arrives at Trail 12:00 a.m.
No. 6 passenger (daily except Sunday)
Leaves Rossland 7:00 a.m.
Arrives at Trail 7:50 a.m.

WESTBOUND.

No. 3 passenger (daily except Sunday)
Leaves Trail 8:15 a.m.
Arrives in Rossland 9:30 a.m.
No. 1 passenger (daily)
Leaves Trail 12:30 p.m.
Arrives in Rossland 1:30 p.m.
No. 5 passenger (daily except Sunday)
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