

GOLD MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. T. A. Blair, of Barkerville, writes an interesting article on the subject, and predicts a great future for the Pacific Province when transportation to the Northern Interior is secured.

British Columbia, Canada's last great province to be exploited by railways and capital, is now on the verge of an era of prosperity unprecedented in the history of the Province, the chief reasons being that there are at the present time two trans-continental railway lines, namely: The Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern now under construction, penetrating its northern interior and bringing in touch with capital the immeasurable resources, the greater part of which was, but a few years ago, a great lone land. It is safe in saying that there is no other province under the British flag blessed with so many different resources and with such a variation of climate.

The climate of the south western part, including Vancouver Island, is very similar to that of Great Britain; that of the south eastern portion, much the same as California, which includes the fruit belt, the Similkameen and Okanagan valleys, while the great central and interior portion—which includes the Cariboo District—which is practically unexplored—has a climate very like that of Ontario.

As to the immense undeveloped resources of this new country, we might mention a few of the most important: agriculture, fruit raising, fishing, lumbering, big game hunting, and (pre-eminently) mining, which includes coal, petroleum, copper, zinc and gold, both quartz and placer.

Therefore, writing from Barkerville in the Cariboo District, the centre of the richest placer gold bearing section of the Province, and which shows promise of becoming famous in quartz mines as well, we will confine this article to the gold mines of this district, with some reference to its past history, the present, and its future prospects.

Gold was first discovered on the Fraser River in the year 1858, and later on Keithley and Antler Creeks in 1861. In 1862 the once-famous Williams Creek was struck, which produced approximately \$40,000,000, and upon which the town of Barkerville stands today. Since those days the production of placer gold, within a radius of thirty miles from Barkerville, according to statistics, has been \$100,000,000. The greater portion of this amount was taken out between the years 1862 and 1875, when the methods of mining were primitive; wages high, and transportation in those days from Yale, the head of navigation on the Fraser River, a distance of over 500 miles by wagon and pack train.

After mining the cream of the then discovered creeks, the country became deserted, and for about a quarter of a century lapsed almost into a slumber, being peopled only by a few unsuccessful miners or by men who had made fortunes and who had squandered them almost as quickly and who had still faith in acquiring wealth in the same easy way.

About ten years ago when another trans-continental railway was talked of, it began to draw the attention of investors—especially Americans—who were quick to perceive a field for profitable investment, and while it will be, perhaps, a couple of years before the railroads will be able to transport supplies into our midst, yet investors are beginning to realize that to wait until then, the cream of the country will have been either located or acquired, and it will be too late.

A number of English syndicates are becoming interested, and when the great latent wealth of this district becomes better known in the old land, we look for a great influx of capital from that direction.

Although the present creeks have not proven as rich as those worked in early Cariboo days, yet the possibilities are just as great. Within a radius of thirty miles from Barkerville there are hundreds of creeks, nearly all of which prospect high in gold on the surface. The reason of so many unprospected creeks in this rich gold bearing belt being the difficulty in reaching the bed rock, on account of the amount of water met with in the creek beds, and the enormous cost of transporting machinery and supplies, which is \$160.00 per ton; the distance being 280 miles from Ashcroft, the nearest railway station on the Canadian Pacific. This high cost will be greatly minimized upon the advent of railway transportation.

Few people, except those who are here on the ground and understand the science of mining, realize the enormous opportunities there are for legitimate investment in this district.

Although drift mining will be carried on here to a considerable extent, the greatest field of opportunity lies in hydraulicing. In California, where hydraulicing is done on a most scientific and economic basis, material is handled and worked at a profit containing three cents per cubic yard, and if the cost of handling material in this district can be reduced to such a minimum price, the field for operations is unlimited,

as there are few creeks where the values do not exceed this amount.

To give a detailed account of the work being carried on at present on the claims already in operation, together with those on which plants are being installed, would require too much space, we will, therefore, confine this article to a few of the more important that have been equipped and will be running this season, and later mention those that will be in the development stages during the coming summer, and will be producing in from one to two years.

Among the dividend paying claims that will be moving material this season, are: Nugget Gulch and China Creek, under the management of B. A. Laselle; the Bear Hydraulic by Mr. C. C. Mahon; the Waverley Mine by Mr. P. Carey; the Forest Rose; Stout's Gulch; Lowhee and Mosquito by John Hopp; the Thistle Mining Co., managed by Messrs. Ross and Burgess. A number of mines on Stevens and Slough Creeks by a couple of Chinese companies; Stuart Creek; Coffee Creek; Last Chance Creek and Donovan Creek by Mr. H. H. Jones, and the Ah Quay claim, under the management of Mr. L. A. Bonner, and the Gayet claim on Antler, by Mr. Gore. Of these claims that will not be equipped in time to move material this season (although some of them may be able to catch the latter part), are as follows:

A drifting claim on Nugget Gulch, owned by Mr. H. Carry; the Gold Seal on Antler by Messrs. Fraser & Campbell; Ruchon Creek by Messrs. Jones and Blair. The West Canadian Deep Leads are installing an elaborate plant on their Pleasant Valley property, under the management of Mr. L. A. Bonner. This company anticipates being able to make a test of the deep ground sometime during Autumn this year. A thorough drill test has been made by Manager Bonner, to determine the depth and lay of bed rock, which was found to be 280 feet deep.

On lower Willow River, Mr. Joseph Wendle, who had a number of men prospecting last season on his properties in that section obtained some excellent prospects, and will prepare to install several plants during the coming summer.

A new English syndicate, with a capitalization of \$300,000 has been formed, under the management of Mr. Chas. Edwards, who will take over the Thompson & Schilling placer properties in this section. Ten miles of a wagon road will be built, to connect with the Barkerville-Hardscrabble road, to enable the company to haul in pipe and machinery. Mr. J. Pinkerton will also install a plant on his Sugar Creek property, and is at present at work on the ground.

Another Bonner enterprise is the New South Wales on Lightning Creek where a large hydraulic elevator plant is being installed. This company expects to be washing gravel sometime in August this year.

Mr. I. I. Felker will commence putting in a plant on Perkins Gulch, as soon as the weather permits in the Spring. He will also continue to push the work on his Wormwald Creek Drifting Mine, and has now a gang of men at work.

Conklin's Gulch, on one of the early days' rich drifting mines, will in all probability be opened next season as a hydraulic.

On Peters Creek, where the Venture Mining Co., have made, perhaps the most important strike made in recent years, will commence work in the Spring, as soon as conditions permit. Peters Creek is one of the forks of Lightning Creek, of about the same size, and having its confluence with Lightning Creek at Beaver Pass. These two creeks parallel each other, and cut the same formation.

The discovery was made late last fall, when the company, who had sunk a rim rock shaft, drifted out, and broke into the creek bottom. The prospects obtained were very similar to that of Lightning Creek in 1871. The gold was heavy and well washed, and ranges in size from flax seed to ounce pieces. The company, which is entirely a local one, commenced work three years ago, but, owing to many unforeseen obstacles, were much longer in testing the deep ground than was anticipated, and from all appearances, will be well rewarded for their perseverance. Owing to an accident to their water wheel and the excessive amount of water, on account of the overflow of the creek, caused by the winter ice, the company have been unable to work during the winter.

A cross-section drill test was made of the channel, proving the gravel to be from eleven to thirty-seven feet deep. The Venture Co. hold five leases on Peters Creek of half a mile each. Other leases on Peters Creek are held by Mr. N. F. Murray, J. C. Mathers and Messrs. Beaton & Armstrong.

Another rich strike was recently made on lower Lightning by the Great Cariboo Gold Co., which is managed by Mr. C. H. Unverzagt. This company owns twenty-one miles

of Lightning Creek, and have been operating here for a number of years. Their great difficulty being to cope with the excessive amount of water met with in the channel. The Manager has the mine now equipped with the latest and most improved machinery, and no further trouble is anticipated in reaching bed rock. The depth to bed rock at this point is about one hundred and sixty feet, and from the bore hole tests, would indicate the ground to be as rich as the same creek was ten miles above at Van Winkle where two miles produced about \$10,000,000.

A considerable stir in quartz properties is looked for during the coming summer.

Although quartz is plentiful—croppings showing on mostly every creek—during the past the great cost of transportation has been discouraging to the ore prospector; but the fact of the approaching railways has stimulated this kind of mining.

Considerable prospecting and a large number of locations were made last season, the most important strike being made by Mr. E. E. Armstrong, who located some high grade ledges on Grouse Creek, and which were later purchased by Mr. F. C. Law, of Vancouver, who will commence work as soon as the Spring weather permits.

The B.C. quartz mine has recently been bonded by the Barkerville-Willow River Railway Co., who will commence work some time during 1911. About \$200,000 have been expended on this mine since the early Cariboo days, when freight rates were 15c. per pound.

It is a fine milling fifty foot ledge, and carries fairly high values.

The Terminal City Mining Co. are doing considerable work on their Island Mountain and Red Gulch properties.

The coal mines on Lower Bear River, owned by Messrs. Wendle and Heppburn, have increased many times their former value, as a result of recent prospecting done late last fall. This property was sold about a year ago for \$15,000. A short time afterwards, the purchasers refused \$200,000, and, since the last development work, are holding it at \$1,000,000.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

The Greenwood smelter has twelve thousand five hundred tons of coke ahead, and is importing more from the east. The Granby Company has ordered twenty thousand tons of coke from Pennsylvania. This will last the big smelter fifty days, when, if the strike is not then settled, a fresh supply will be ordered.

Dan MacDonald, at present assistant fire chief in Rossland, has been appointed to a similar position in Prince Rupert.

Henry Jobs, wanted for the murder of his wife near New Westminster was captured by a man named Dauphine, who induced Jobs to enter a room, where he locked him in pending the arrival of the police. The alleged murderer is now in the New Westminster jail, and displays every evidence of advanced dementia.

During a week's hunting trip around the Duncan river, in East Kootenay, W. B. Windlaw, the well-known lumberman, secured five magnificent black bear.

N. M. Foulkes is to be manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce's new branch at Golden.

An early commencement of construction of the proposed \$2,500,000 drydock at Prince Rupert is promised by the G.T.P. directorate.

Grand Forks poultrymen will hold their annual exhibition on September 29-30, in co-operation with the agricultural association's autumnal exhibition.

G. C. Doherty, street light tender for the B.C.E.R. Co. at Vancouver, was recently electrocuted while in the performance of his duties. He neglected to turn off the switch and, standing on the damp street, received the full current of 2,000 volts, dying instantly.

John Binney has been unanimously elected president of the Rossland Miners' union.

Twenty-four short-term prisoners have just been transferred from New Westminster to the Nanaimo jail.

For the first time in forty years Revelstoke points with pride to two grizzly cubs captured alive and now on exhibition at a local hotel. The grizzlies are ferocious little fellows from their birth.

Merritt now has a volunteer fire brigade.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

Notice is hereby given that the partnership formerly subsisting between us, the undersigned, as Hotel Proprietors in the town of Quesnel, under the firm name of Strand and Marion, has been dissolved as and from the 12th May, 1911, by mutual consent.

All debts owing to the said partnership are to be paid to the undersigned John Strand at the New Cariboo Hotel, Quesnel, B.C., and all claims against the said partnership are to be presented to the said John Strand, by whom the same will be settled.

Dated at Quesnel, B.C., this 15th day of June, 1911.

JOHN STRAND,
T. MARION.
Witness—E. J. Avison.

George Frank, upon conviction for assault, before Judge McInnes at Vancouver, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment at hard labor.

WATER NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made under Part V. of the "Water Act, 1909," to obtain a licence in the Cariboo Division of Cariboo District.

(a.) The name, address and occupation of the applicant—Herbert B. Hill, Alexandria, B.C.
(b.) The name of the lake, stream or source (if unnamed, the description is)—A south easterly fork of Four Mile Creek, Alexandria.

(c.) The point of diversion—About 20 chains east of the north east corner of the applicant's pre-emption; also about 10 chains south of the south-east corner of the same pre-emption.

(d.) The quantity of water applied for (in cubic feet per second)—Two.

(e.) The character of the proposed works—Ditch.

(f.) The premises on which the water is to be used (describe same)—The pre-emption of the applicant.

(g.) The purposes for which the water is to be used—Irrigation.

(h.) If for irrigation describe the land intended to be irrigated, giving acreage—The applicant's pre-emption of 160 acres.

(i.) Area of Crown land intended to be occupied by the proposed works—Two ditch lines together about 30 chains long.

(k.) This notice was posted on the 3rd day of June, 1911, and application will be made to the Commissioner on the 11th day of July, 1911.

(l.) Give the names and addresses of any riparian proprietors or licensees who or whose lands are likely to be affected by the proposed works, either above or below the outlet—None.

HERBERT B. HILL,
Alexandria, B.C.

E. J. Avison, Quesnel, B.C.
His Solicitor. 43-46

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