

# HOT SPRINGS NEWS.

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## "GOLDEN MASHONALAND."

Mashonaland, which, in the past two years has frequently been the cause of political complications in South Africa, is spoken of as the "future gold field of the world." The region is named after an African tribe, the Mashonas, and lies between the Portuguese boundary of the Sofala coast district on the east and the Matebele country. Lo Bengulu, chief of the Matebeles, has conquered the Mashonas, and claims a sort of sovereignty over them. Through the efforts of Cecil Rhodes, premier of Cape Colony, the Chartered Company of South Africa, known as the British South Africa Company, was organized in 1889 with the duke of Fife as president. This commercial company was conceded by the British government great political powers, and a monopoly of the resources of the whole territory north of 22 degrees south latitude and east of 20 degrees east longitude—a region including Bechuanaland Protectorate, Matebeleland, Mashonaland, and an undefined region north of Zambesi. Over Mashonaland the Portuguese claimed a right by treaties with that tribe, but by the abortive Anglo-Portuguese treaty of August, 1890, this country, with a vast area beyond it, extending to the Congo Free State, was acknowledged to be British. Early in 1891 fresh troubles broke out between the Portuguese and the British South Africa Company. Open hostilities were imminent, when lord Salisbury offered terms to the Portuguese government that were more favorable than the treaty of 1890, relinquishing 50,000 square miles north of the Zambesi. South of the Zambesi the British South Africa Company are allotted an enlarged territory, but the Portuguese still retain a part of Matabeleland. This treaty was signed in June, 1891. Lo Bengulu at one time signed a document which, it is alleged, gave the Chartered Company a monopoly of lands and mines in Matebeleland and Mashonaland, but he has since denied it and returned the gifts of money and rifles made by the company in accordance with the agreement. The work of the Pioneer corps was to open up Mashonaland, establish a permanent roadway, and prepare the region for settlement. Despatches in December, 1891, announced that a railroad from the river Pungue, 12 miles from Beira, on the Indian ocean, to the gold diggings in Mashonaland, is under way. A number of routes were surveyed, and the one chosen will be less than 200 miles in length. The British South Africa and the Portuguese Mozambique Companies will construct the line together, and building will begin in April, 1892. One hundred miles of the route will be completed, it is believed, by the end of December. Frank Mandy is an acknowledged authority on Mashonaland, having first visited the country about 15 years ago, and for the past 8 years he has been familiar with both Mashonaland and Matebeleland. Mr. Mandy, who was with the Pioneer corps, gives a graphic description of the expedition in a magazine article, from which the following extracts have been taken:

"I had the honor of holding a commission in the Pioneer corps, and accompanied that little force on its march to Mashonaland. After its disbandment at Fort Salisbury, in September last year, I spent 8 months in prospecting and traveling in that country; and have seen it under new aspects and conditions. Before that neither I nor anyone else had ever remained a summer through Mashonaland; and in the course of this article I will try and give your readers a faithful account of what I observed there, telling them not only of its wonderful resources, but laying bare the drawbacks which the settler will have to contend with. I will begin by giving a short account of the pioneer march and the occupation of land.

"The pioneers number about 150 men, drawn from every part of the Cape Colony. Almost every district was represented in the force. Made up as it was of young African farmer-

and men originally from England, but who had spent the best years of their lives either farming, hunting, or prospecting in almost every part of South Africa, the corps could hardly have been improved upon for the work it had to do. The predominating feature in the character of all the men was a spirit of self-reliance. It was a corps of crack shots; almost every man a sportsman; and as much at home in the trackless forest as a schoolboy in the foot-ball field. Each one knew the very risky nature of the venture, and all went into it with eyes wide open. Our little band mustered on the banks of the Macloufsie river early in the month of June, 1890, and it was at first intended that the pioneers, under the command of major Johnson, were to proceed alone to Mount Hampden; and when the road was made, to be followed by a strong body of the Chartered Company's police. But at the last moment this programme was changed. General Methuen, who had been sent by the high commissioner (governor Loch) to inspect our force, decided that we should be accompanied by two troops of the British South Africa Company's police; and placed the whole expedition under the command of lieutenant-colonel Pennefather, an imperial officer. The result of this change was, the pioneers became soldiers. But no amount of red tape, nor that training which turns men into machines, could stamp out of our men their one great predominating characteristic—individual self-reliance.

"The discipline of the corps was perfect; no man wanted forcing to do his duty. Each one knew what had to be done and did it thoroughly. I must say a word here for the Chartered Company's police; they are a body that few countries in the world could raise. In physique, in intelligence, and in their skill with the rifle, it would be difficult to find their equals in any other military force. The little band of pioneers and two troops of police made their final plunge into the unknown on July 1, 1890. On the day previous they had crossed the Tuli river, and at 4 o'clock on the following morning the force silently broke "lager," and steamed away into the dense forests of Mopani and thorn, through which the road had to be cut for the greater portion of the first two hundred miles. A troop of the pioneers had started nearly a fortnight before, and had already cut some 40 miles of road, and awaited the column at the Umzingwane river. After this, the road-cutting party always managed to keep a day ahead of the column. Some of Khama's men assisted in this road-making in the heaviest parts; but the pioneers practically did all the work.

"The chopping troop ahead was always protected from surprise by scouts and patrols, and it came very hard on men who had been toiling with the ax all day, to have to mount guard at night; but all was cheerfully done. Behind marched the main column. Lager was broken at 4 o'clock every morning. First went the advance guard, with flankers on either side several hundred yards away; some six or eight hundred yards in the rear marched the main body of the advance guard with the Maxim gun; connecting links put the two bodies in communication. After a short interval came the Pioneer artillery troop, with 27-pounders; then marched a troop of police immediately ahead of the wagons, which trekked slowly in a double line; for the pioneers had cut two roads as near as possible parallel, about 20 yards apart. This shortened by one-half our long train of 80 wagons. Following in their rear, came another troop with the Gardner gun; then a line of connecting links, and finally the rear guard. The entire line was protected on either side by flanking parties; and scouts and patrols were out a long distance ahead, on our left and in the rear.

"At last, on August 13th, 1890, the little column emerged from the low country onto the Mashona plateau, by the now well-known Providential gorge; a wonderful outlet through an almost impassable barrier of mountains. It is 12 miles of a gentle ascent; the pass does not wind, and there was plenty of room for the double line of wagons; not an obstacle except the thick forest through which the roads had to

be cut. It is the only outlet that admits a wagon road for many miles on either side; and wonderful to relate, we struck it exactly in our track.

"Immediately on arrival, the pioneers set to work to build a fort; the ground was tough and the work hard; but on September 29th, the fort was finished and handed over to the police. On the 30th our little party of pioneers was disbanded; wagons and oxen lent to parties of 6, and by the evening of October 1st not a pioneer was left at Fort Salisbury. North, south, east, and west they had scattered, eager to find the gold which was to repay them for all their risks and hardships.

"Looking back, it seems difficult to believe that our convoy of 80 heavily laden wagons had succeeded in traversing 400 miles, from Tuli to Salisbury; the greater part of the way through thick forests, over numberless spruits and rivers, the drifts through which had all to be made, and through a country unknown to every man, in the short space of 9 weeks. Our guide, captain F. C. Selous (the well-known hunter), did wonders. I am sure no other man could have piloted us as he did, his mere presence gave the men a sense of security. Besides being guide, he was the head of the intelligence department, and his scouts (the pick of the pioneers) were ever out, several days journey in front, to the west and in the rear.

"The inhabitants of Mashonaland are rather disappointing. Their physique and bodily development are poor. Their color is intensely black, though their faces are more Arabic than negro. As agriculturists they show out well. Even very small villages cultivate immense lands with considerable skill and great intelligence. When breaking up new ground, they invariably utilize the grass and scattering the ashes of the burned trees over the soil. They then let the field lie fallow till the following season, when it is again dug and trenched and planted. The Mashona fields present a very neat appearance, the ridge and furrow system being employed for all crops except rice. In growing this latter grain, the seed is sown in round holes about a yard in diameter and a foot in depth; this collects and holds the water necessary for its growth. All their other crops are raised on ridges, with rather deep furrows alongside, for the opposite reason. They harvest annually immense quantities of mealies, Kaffir-corn, pogo, and rice, beans, ground-nuts, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, sweet reed, pumpkins, squashes, calabashes, and small quantities of tobacco. In some parts they have bananas, lemons, watermelons, and sweet melons. Although not a single tribe of them expected our advent, they were able to supply from their surplus stores the needs of over a thousand hungry white men for more than six months.

"The most fruitful soil and the country best suited for general farming is on the gold and iron formations. Here the soil is deep, heavy loam, the drainage good, and anything in the wide world would grow and flourish with only a little care. Mashonaland, I venture to predict, will become one of the greatest fruit-producing countries in the world. European cereals will do well as winter crops, and a large export trade will follow when the Pungent route is opened to the coast.

"The climate is one of the pleasantest in the world; cold and exhilarating in winter, and not too hot during summer. At no time of the year is the heat as great as in the Cape Colony. From October 1, 1890, to May, 1891, I lived in the open air, and between those dates walked several hundred miles; and I can truthfully say that I never, even on one day, found the heat too great for comfortable walking.

"The gold of Mashonaland will prove its great attraction at first. I prospected in two of its gold districts uninterruptedly during 7 months; and was in constant communication with men who had been prospecting the other known gold belts. At present there are 6 districts into which pioneers have penetrated. These are the Hartley Hills, about 60 miles southwest of Salisbury, the Umferli, 25 miles west of Hartley

Hills; the Lo Mogundi or Northern gold-fields, 90 miles northwest of Salisbury; 20 miles north from Salisbury are the Mazoe fields; 90 miles east of Mazoe lies the Kaiser Wilhelm; and the Manica, about 130 miles to the southeast of Salisbury. By this it will be seen that Salisbury, the capital, is situated in a very central position with relation to the gold-fields.

"These districts are very large—Hartley Hill being the smallest. I have been over the greater part of the Mazoe field and found its prospects very good. The quartz reefs I saw were wonderfully rich; they were not very large, nor could they be traced for any very great distance, on account of the mountainous and broken nature of the country. But one reef I saw in the Mazoe was an exception; it was 40 feet thick, and the outcrop could be traced for 500 yards. Five feet of this reef panned splendidly, and through it there ran a pay-streak, about 9 inches wide, peppered with visible gold, and panning more than 100 ounces to the ton. The lucky finders had made a cutting several feet deep across the reef, and had sunk a shaft 30 feet deep alongside the pay-streak. This property of 10 claims was sold to a local firm for \$105,000.

"I saw another very rich 2-foot leader at Broken Hill, in the Mazoe—every piece broken off showing visible gold, right through the stone; the leader getting richer and wider as it was sunk upon; the shaft was down 25 feet when I saw it last.

"Another shaft I visited in the same district was down 80 feet; and here again the stone was remarkably rich, some of it crusted with visible gold. I might go on particularizing, but this article is already too long. Everywhere I went, in the Mazoe, I found prospectors enthusiastically satisfied with what they had found; and what I saw convinced me that the majority of them had good reason for their satisfaction. With the exception of the 40-foot reef I mentioned first, all the properties in the Mazoe, as in all the other districts, are on ancient workings. The Lo Mogundi, or Northern gold-fields, have, like the others, been extensively worked in days long gone by. Here the formation is more defined and continuous than in the Mazoe. I traced one series of gold-odes for more than 23 miles without a break; old workings along the whole length. How far the lodes continue at either end I cannot say; there was no break either at the beginning or the end of the 23 miles. The character of the gold in the Mogundi district is fine, and the reefs are larger than in the Mazoe. Here one cannot find startling specimens with "visible," but the results in the pan are most satisfactory, averaging from 1 to 3 ounces of gold to the ton of quartz. Along the 23 miles I have mentioned, you can break off or pick up stones, and wherever you strike the reef the results are the same—very good. There are several other lodes in this district all of which have been worked by the ancients, and all very rich.

"Of all these I can speak personally, because I spent some months on these fields, and prospected them thoroughly. Experts—men who have spent many years gold mining in this and other countries—are confident that Mashonaland will prove the richest gold country in the world. I have heard numbers of prospectors speak of Hartley Hills and the Umfedi fields; their experiences would have turned the heads of any who heard them, had it not been that they also had seen similar things in the parts they had prospected.

"Of the Kaiser Wilhelm fields little is known; they had just been discovered before I left Salisbury, in May last. The men who went to Manica speak in glowing terms of its golden prospects, and of the country generally. They say it is very lovely, fertile, well watered, and healthy.

"Besides gold, Mashonaland is rich in silver; very rich lodes have been discovered in the Lo Mogundi district; these had likewise been worked in ancient times. Chips from the blossom rock give an assay of over one hundred ounces of silver to the ton. Galena containing a very large percentage of silver has been found in large bodies in Manica. And in different parts, other minerals have been discovered whose nature and value have not yet been tested.

"Iron is found everywhere off the granite beds, and often in almost a virgin state. I cannot positively declare that the future of Mashonaland as a gold-producing country is assured. Only deep sinking, careful development, and the battery test will prove that. But I do say the prospects disclosed by what work has already

been done quite satisfy the expectation of the most sanguine. No one can say what is under the ground; but there are good reasons for feeling confident that the promises of the surface and of the depths that have been already reached will be fulfilled when the country is mined in a practical manner. Of wood and water there is abundance, and in many parts there is the fall necessary for water-power. I have said that all the claims pegged out as yet are on old workings. Whoever the people were who worked these mysterious mines, they knew as much if not more about gold prospecting than we do. Almost all the gold-bearing out-crop is worked away. Where the ancients worked, it is invariably rich. But though their knowledge of prospecting was great, their appliances for gold winning were rude. They ground the quartz on flat stones by means of round pebbles, used as grinders or pestles. Alongside some of the old works are lying thousands—tens of thousands—of these flat stones worn by the action of grinding the hard quartz. The stone must have been very rich to have repaid them for this slow style of gold extraction. It was not from want of gold that these ancients gave up their occupation and left the country; for in the few old shafts and cuttings that have been cleaned out, and the reef picked up where it was left, it is found to be very rich.

"Very few workings have as yet been sunk upon, the process is dangerous on account of the rubble which might at any moment fall in, and this work would require careful timbering. When old shafts are systematically cleared out, tools and implements may be discovered, which will throw some light upon the mysteries of both the ruins and the mines. That the two are connected I have no doubt. The builders of Zimbabwe, the smaller Zimbabwe, and the old forts scattered over Matebeleland and Mashonaland, were the men who mined the country. These ruins are invariably either on or close alongside of gold belts. There is magnificent formation for gold near the great Zimbabwe, and the Victoria gold-fields would well repay prospecting.

"At Zimbabwe, and at many of the ruined forts, can be picked up flat stone slabs about one foot by six inches, with 32 cups, like the cups on a solitaire board, hollowed out upon them; 8 rows of 4 each. On all the gold fields I visited, especially in the neighborhood of the old workings, I found similar stones. I have found this "32" game (for it is a game) beautifully cut upon a solid mass of stone shaved flat to make a convenient table, with smaller blocks shaven flat on either side which served as seats for the players. The Mashonas of today, in some parts, play this game; not on carefully prepared stone slabs, but with 32 cups hollowed in the ground; and instead of using prepared pellets such as the ancients must have played with, they use small pebbles. On several occasions I watched two players; they were as much absorbed in their game as any two Europeans over a game of chess. They studied each move and played in silence. I watched closely to find out what laws governed the moves; but all seemed to me capricious. The players must have had fixed rules, or they would have quarreled over their game. From the Mashonas playing it, I have concluded that their forefathers were used as servants or slaves by the ancient miners, and they learned this game from their masters. Find what semi-civilized play this 32 game, and I believe we shall be upon the track of the builders of Zimbabwe and the ancient gold miners. Mr. Burt, the archeologist, is now at Zimbabwe, and we can hope soon to hear that his excavations have thrown some certain light on a subject at present buried in impenetrable mystery.

"Less than 18 months ago, very few even knew where Mashonaland was situated. The schemes for its settlement were looked upon as the impracticable visions of enthusiasts. Impenetrable forests, unfordable rivers, and impassable mountains barred all ingress to the land of promise; to say nothing of hordes of bloodthirsty savages lying in wait to slaughter all who attempted it. And now, Mashonaland has been won and occupied; over 4000 busy, energetic men scattered over it; two good roads made from the south, and a road from Salisbury to the east coast, which will very soon become a railroad. Telegraph communication has already been made to the Nuanetsi river, within 230 miles of Salisbury; mines are being opened; farms taken up; magistrates appointed at the various centers; and Mashonaland is advancing

with rapid strides to take its proper place as the flourishing home for the surplus population of England, and a veritable Eldorado for enterprising spirits from Europe and America."

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**THE MACARTHUR-FORREST PROCESS.**

A. B. Paul, general manager of the Calumet Gold Mining Company, whose mines are on Middle creek, Shasta county, California, has given the MacArthur-Forrest process of treating gold ores a trial, and is satisfied with the result. The following statement is of interest to the owners of gold properties in the Kootenay Lake country:

It being generally known that the Calumet company was the first to introduce the MacArthur-Forrest process into California on any practical working scale, my time has been considerably taxed in answering letters from very many mining men, not only in California, but elsewhere, all inquiring as to the practicability of the process, etc., etc. Seeing so many are interested, I have concluded to write a description of it, giving data so many desire, and let you publish it.

To preface the process was first promoted by the Cassel Gold-Extracting Company of Glasgow, Scotland; from there it was introduced into Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, and the United States. The patents for the United States are held by the Gold and Silver Extracting, Mining & Milling Company of Denver, Colorado, of which ex-senator Tator is president, and T. L. Wiswall secretary. This company was formed some two years ago, but little progress was made, however, until within the past year, and since the Denver company completed their 15-ton mill and commenced working ores, which gave such unexpected and satisfactory returns, in the way of high per cent, that every investigator was filled with wonder, and saw the revolution likely to follow.

On my attention being called to it, now one year ago, I at once started for Denver, and was allowed all the desired privileges for a close investigation. The more I investigated, the more merit the process presented, and I soon became convinced that it was worthy of more than a passing consideration; in fact, in my own mind, I concluded to "sail in" and find out all about it, on practical working of our own ores. Returning to California, I commenced a series of experiments, agreeable to instructions received in Denver from their leading chemist, and soon made better results on our ore than made in Denver. It now took no time to decide as to the propriety of introducing the process on a large scale in the Calumet mill, under my management, and where it is now doing satisfactory work and being extended, and will be up to 100 tons a day.

It may be information to many to state that in South Africa 13 mills are now operating the process with great success, and that mills are already in operation in Colorado, Utah, Montana, Dakota, and California. At the Needles in San Bernardino county a 100-ton mill is in course of erection. Being among the first in this country to accept its merits, I fancy, by this time, I know something about it, and hence presume to speak.

The MacArthur-Forrest process is the use of a weak solution of cyanide of potassium. The strength of cyanide should be, as testing your ore will show, the proper per cent for extracting the highest per cent of the precious metals, say from one-half of 1 per cent to 1, then treating your ore for a given length of time with this solution; time for treatment is according to the character of your ore and metals, how much base and what kind. To get at this correctly, a few tests are necessary; but it is easily worked out. And here, it is proper to state that time is more the factor of per cent than a high per cent of cyanide. We have made many tests on this point, and all clearly establish this fact. I have failed in per cent of extraction on some ore, and then, by a few experiments, gained high per cents from same. It is a process of study, but once you get time and per cent determined, then there is no failure in your extraction from that especial ore, no matter to what extent you may go. So true has this been with our working, on small and large scale, that taking any ore, from any mine, I would not hesitate to build a 50-ton mill on a simple test of 50 pounds, if the per cent of extraction was satisfactory.

There are two modes of having action from the cyanide on the ore; one is by agitation, and the other is by time and percolation. Revolving barrels, or settlers, as used at times in silver

mills, make good agitators. The percolating plan is the use of large tanks, whereby the ore rests in the solution and in time is percolated off into reservoirs. Agitators take attention and power; percolation, less attention and no power; besides, agitated material must be discharged into filtering tanks and allowed time to draw off. At Calumet, we first used agitators as per instructions but after trying percolating, gave it the preference, and are now pushing for enlarged capacity on this plan. This mode of working is being generally adopted in South Africa, presumably by Mr. MacArthur's instructions. From my South America correspondent, I learn they are now constructing all mills for this way of operating the process. The new mill of the Shasta company is also changing to the percolating plan. The Mercur mill of Utah was the first in this country to start on the percolating plan, on a scale of 30 tons per day. All percolated solution, whether from agitators or tanks, contain cyanide, gold and silver in solution; consequently, all vessels receiving the same should be perfectly tight, as you presumably are handling valuable liquid. This percolated solution is now transferred to the precipitating box, of size according to value of ore and quantity to be treated. The box used at Calumet is 14 feet long, with 14 apartments. These boxes have wire screens on the bottom, and are filled with zinc shavings 4 inches deep. The boxes are so constructed, that the solution is made to pass through the body of shavings, which precipitates the gold and silver in a dark blackish powder. By this part of the process, a given part of the zinc is destroyed; but this is of no particular moment, as the loss is but trifling in dollars and cents.

The process is very simple and easily worked, when you have your plant right, and start right on the per cent of cyanide, and time for your especial ore. As to reducing ore, it is as yet an unsettled question whether it is best to crush wet or dry, all points being considered. The majority of the mills are crushing their ore dry. The Calumet company has started out on a new lay, which I think will be the winning one; to wit, crushing by stamps and running the cyanide solution through the battery instead of water. In other words, crush your quartz in the solution; thus you combine agitation, percolation, and expedition.

This, through a new deal, suits us, and thus far no disadvantages present themselves, that override the advantage gained. Of course you have to keep pumping your solution back, and running round. For dry reduction, the Shasta company's mill uses pulverizing barrels. The advantage gained by the use of barrels is all the ore is of equal grain, and, as you do not require fine crushing for this process, by uniform grain of ore you do faster percolation. Time, however, is the essence of per cent more than fine crushing. As to cost of working the process, there is a good deal to know before this question can be correctly answered; to give some idea, will say from \$2 to \$5 per ton. You can extract the gold and a high per cent of silver from any ore. The question is as to time, and at what per cent of cyanide.

As to silver extraction, at first I paid no attention to it, but have found the process very efficient, except requiring more time than gold; yet silver is in so many combinations that testing should be the only guide for any especial ore. It will work readily all ores by pan amalgamation. Taking California ores, for some it will often extract more silver than the total cost of milling. As to cost of plant, for gold it is very much cheaper than the ordinary first-class mill; for silver, the expense will not be half the cost of pan mills.

To express myself as to the process, will be to declare it one of the wonders of the times. I am aware that it has not the friendship of some men of science who talk wisely on what they don't know. To me, all opposition is as a puff of wind in the face of every day demonstrated facts as I handle the process. I have been cursed too often by disappointments in yields, by our old systems, to not appreciate the fact of always being sure of a high per cent of the value of the ore I treat.

One of the astonishing features of the process is, that you can take the heaviest sulphureted ores, and, without roasting, extract 95 per cent of the value out of same, and then you cannot detect any perceptible difference in their appearance. This was the hardest part for me to real-

ize, but I have long ago gotten over the doubt, but not the wonder.

One of the inviting features of the process is that all the machinery you want is for reducing your ore, and power to drive it; and what a comfort there is in this, every millman can realize. Then, coupled with the fact that your returns are certain, a wise man can grasp the future of mining. Thus I give the reader some idea of what the process is. Of course there is more or less detail, which can only be gained by practical manipulation of it.

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DEALERS IN

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Dry Goods, Clothing, Men's Furnishings, Etc., Etc.

Our branch store at Kaslo City is the place at which Prospectors and Miners bound for the Kaslo Creek and Slocan Lake mines should purchase supplies, in order to save transportation charges.

#### LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

Now that G. B. Wright has resumed the management of the Ainsworth townsite, much in the way of needed public improvements are expected. It is said streets will be graded, a drainage system started, and water-works put in. Mr. Wright's acquaintances do not doubt his individual willingness to try and make Ainsworth the chief town on the lake, but they doubt if the townsite company will back him up with the needed funds. A. E. Hodgins, the engineer, was engaged during the week in taking levels to enable him to furnish estimates as to the cost of grading the main streets.

It is said the supplemental estimates will contain one item of interest for people in Ainsworth, that is, \$1500 for the wharf. An effort was made to get in \$250 for a fire department; but the government objected, on the ground that it was the intention to hereafter do away with all such appropriations.

Kaslo now boasts of 2 general merchandise stores—Green Brothers' and Wilson's. Green Brothers' is in charge of T. J. Roadley, one of the popular and accommodating boys of the lake country. Sam Green occasionally takes a run up from the parent house at Ainsworth, and if the girl's parents are willing, he and Roadley will ere long swap places of residence.

John Keen, the engineer who will have charge of the surveys for the projected wagon road from Kaslo City up Kaslo creek to the discoveries on Slocan lake, arrived from Victoria this week. He is reticent as to the railway-building intentions of the Kaslo-Kootenay Land Company.

Of the total number of people arriving in the lake country, fully one-half stay over at Ainsworth and make investments either in mines, in town lots, or in their minds.

Several Seattle capitalists, H. G. Bond being of the number, have been in Ainsworth during the week closing deals for Slocan mining property. They are more than pleased with the outlook.

Frank Flint and party start next week for the Slocan discoveries in which they are interested, intending to erect cabins preparatory to doing

development work. They will go in by way of the Kaslo creek route.

At a recent mind-reader's performance in Victoria, a question regarding the breaking in and robbery of a local grocer's establishment was placed on paper by one of the audience. In due time the mind reader answered it by stating that the unlawful act was committed by a gang of professional burglars, 2 of whom still remained in Victoria "the other 4 having gone to"—with some hesitation on the part of the mind-reader as if in doubt as to the locality—"Kaslo City."

The work of grading the site for the concentrator building was commenced at Pilot Bay this week. Part of the machinery for the smelter is now on the way from Chicago.

Dr. LaBau left this week for Victoria. He expects to be a licensed doctor on his return.

The owners of the new steamboat built at Ainsworth will probably have the hull towed up to Bonner's Ferry, so that the engine and boiler can be placed in her to better advantage.

#### Corrects Mistakes of "The Miner."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWS: In The Miner of the 9th I notice a paragraph on the sale of my property at Balfour. I would be glad if THE NEWS would correct a few misstatements: 1. Omit words "long negotiated," the time was only just that necessary for the offer to come to be accepted by telegraph—say 3 days. 2. For "unsold portions," etc., read "unconveyed"—practically the same thing though capable of a different interpretation. 3. Omit entirely from "and" in the eighth line to "payments" in the tenth line. All uncompleted purchases were cancelled by notice in The Miner last summer. In some few cases arrangements were made for an extension of time, and those have been already carried out. All others are absolutely cancelled and the deposit forfeited. I do not know how such a misunderstanding can have been arrived at. It is the intention of the present owners to spend money on the wharf and other improvements immediately.

CHARLES WESTLY BUSK.

Victoria, April 14th.

#### WILL SILENCE THE CROAKERS.

Ainsworth is not only the abiding place of the most enterprising prospectors in the Kootenay Lake country, but the mining division of which it is the center has within its limits more good showings for mines than any other section of British Columbia, mines too on which machinery has been placed and on which thousands of feet of shafts have been sunk and tunnels and drifts run. Once reduction works are in operation on the lake, the output of such mines as the Krao, United, Tenderfoot, Little Donald, Neosho, Skyline, Crescent, Number One, and Fourth will silence the croakers who are so fond of making the oft-repeated statement: "O, if you have so much ore in sight, why don't you ship it!" The Krao alone is as good a showing for a mine as any in the Cœur d'Alene country at the same stage of development, and the Krao is not alone in that condition. The Tenderfoot is not only surprising its owners, but making the "doubting Thomases" feel sick. The owners of the Neosho have made arrangements to place machinery on that property, and Mr. Wallace, the superintendent, has returned from a business visit to them at Seattle. As soon as Dr. Campbell arrives from Denver, work will be resumed on both the Number One and the United. A. W. McCune, who has expended much good money in the camp, is expected in from Salt Lake next month, and before he departs will make arrangements for putting a mill on the Skyline and a tramway from the Krao to the lake shore. W. H. Lynch is making good progress in placing Woodbury and Cedar creek claims in Montreal, and before the coming season has advanced far will have at least 3 companies at work. Slocan may get the rush, but Ainsworth will remain the king-pin mining division of West Kootenay district.

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ASSAYER and CHEMIST,  
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