HOT SPRINGS NEWS.

NUMBER 52. AINSWORTH, BRITISH COLUMBIA, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1892. TEN CENTS

BRITISH GUYANA.

British Guyana in the north section of the eastern part of South America is 550 miles in length and 280 miles wide, with an area of about 90,000 square miles. With a population of about 288,000 souls, 115,000 are negroes, 105,000 East Indians, 29,000 mixed races, 12,000 Portugese, nearly 4000 Chinese and 7000 native Indians. Lying between 2 degrees and 8 degrees north latitude, the climate is hot nearly all the year round. The temperature, however, is exceedingly regular, ranging from 75 degrees to 90 degrees as extremes, average 80 degrees, and seldom varying more than a few degrees above or below that number. The rainfall averages 75 inches per annum, with 2 wet and 2 dry seasons in the year.

As the eastern trade winds blow nearly regularly, on the whole, the climate is really healthy. The coast lands are simply extensive mud banks, stretching from a few to 50 miles inland, and rising only a few feet above the sea level at their junction with the first low hills of the interior. Inland, the country is first hilly and then mountainous, rising in successive stages till it culminates in the great sandstone table land of Roraima, 7000 to 8000 feet above the level of the sea. The larger rivers of British Guyana are from a mile to 20 miles wide at their mouths, and from 200 to 600 miles in length, and are navigable from 50 to 150 miles from the coast. Numerous rapids and falls form obstructions to further navigation at present, but when these are removed or passes made round them these rivers will be navigable for small steamers for at least double the distance mentioned.

In fact, the country is full of these natural highways leading into the interior from the coast. The low lands along the coast, as well as the greater part of the high lands of the interior, are covered with dense tropical forests containing a great variety of valuable timbers. On the high lands there are also many large and beautiful savannahs or open grassy plains, where the scenery between mountain and plain and rolling downs is grand and beautiful beyond description.

The coast lands of alluvial sediment brought down by the great rivers from the highlands, consist of red and yellow clay, blue mud, fine sand, and pegasse or tropical peat. At a depth of about 3 feet in Georgetown, the blue clay has the consistency of soft soap, and when a cart passes or a cab rolls along the street, the ground underneath and all along quivers like a great bed of jelly when shaken. Inland, in the hilly country, granites and gneisses are common, are generally dark gray color, fine grained and felspathic.

Greenstones, chiefly diorite, occur in great variety. Porphyries and porphyrites are very plentiful, and these are also fine grained, felspathic, in composition, and dark colored. Schistose mudstones (rough clay slates) also occur, blue, red and brown in color, and these are at times highly charged with oxide of iron. In some localities large quartz lodes are numerous. Several veins rich in gold have already been discovered in working shallow placer deposits. Extensive deposits of rich iron stone abound in various parts of the country. The high table-land of Roraima in the interior, as well as parts of the country adjacent to it, is composed of a series of sandstones, conglomerates and shales, horizontally bedded.

The gold fields lie from 50 to 200 miles inland, and the auriferous belt extends over a length of 200 miles. The gold occurs in shallow alluvial plains from 2 to 8 or nine feet deep, in creeks, gullies and ravines, sometimes in the bed of the present creek, but more frequently in older beds parallel with the present creeks. The wash dirt varies from a few inches to a couple of feet thick, and from a few feet to as much as a hundred yards in breadth. The writer saw one bed over a hundred yards in width. The wash dirt consists of quartz gravel and clay with a layer of decomposed vegetable matter on top or sometimes under it. As a rule the pebbles in the gravel are slightly rounded, but sometimes are sharp and angular, thus showing that they have travelled no great distance from the parent quartz lode. The stripping on top of the wash consists of a stiff, greasy clay, red and yellow in color, and the dense tropical forest covers the entire surface of all the auriferous country so far discovered. Most of the gold is fine and very ragged, some of it is coarse and nuggety. One large nugget found on the Potaro realized over $5000. Small specimens of gold quarts are found in most of the places, and large blocks of stone, rich in gold have been found in a number of claims. As yet, there has been no deep sinking and the richest ground is generally found in small ravines amongst the lower ridges. As a rule, the placers are rich, and few parties will work a tom or a sluice for less than an ounce of gold per day and 3, 4, 5 and 6 ounces are frequently obtained, and at times as much as 12 ounces have been washed from a single tom in good ground. Gold is brought down from the fields in quantities varying from a few dwts. upwards and parcels of 10, 20 and 30 pounds weight are not uncommon, while recently one lot contained 97 pounds weight.

The export of gold for the year 1890 amounted to 62,615 ounces, and the amount for the current year up to date, December 16, is 64,275 ounces, or about half more than last year, with a considerable quantity still to come down. The chief gold fields are the Potaro, Mazaruni, Cuyuni, Puruni, Barama and Barimi, each situated on a river of the same name. Rich gold placers are also found in French and Dutch Guyanas and in Venezuela.

Diamonds of fair size, but rather off color, have also been found in the Potaro, Mazurini and Barama districts, that is through the whole extent of the gold belt, showing that they are widely distributed, and thus indicating that valuable deposits of these gems may be discovered in the near future. A few sapphires and some garnets have also been discovered, but none of any value that I know of.

It is well to bear in mind here that the ruby has the same composition and crystaline form as the sapphire, differing only from the latter in color, and that where one is found the latter is likely to occur, and also that rubies when large and of fine quality, are of greater value than diamonds. Beautiful red jasper is found in the interior, and also milk white chalcedony. Iron occurs in many parts of the country, in large deposits of hematite and limonite, and generally is well diffused amongst the rocks of the country, the diorities and red slates being specially rich in iron. Oxide of magnanese is also plentiful, and the large boulders in the creeks and rivers are frequently covered with a coating of it, which shines like polished black lead. Not one-hundredth part of the country has been prospected, so that it is utterly impossible to conjecture what other valuable metals, minerals, and precious stones may be discovered in the future. With the exception of the coast lands, and the sandstones and conglomerates of high table lands of the interior, the whole country seems to be more or less auriferous.

In prospecting, a party of say 6 men, with one large boat to carry tools and provisions to last 3 or 4 months, are required, and the total cost, including wages, will amount to $600 or $800. The time required to reach the fields varies from 4 to 12 days according to the field chosen. A prospecting license cost 1s., and a placer claim has an area of 50 acres. No rent is charged for the claims, but the government charges a royalty of 90 cents, or 3s. 9d. per ounce on all gold produced in the country.

British Guyana is within 14 days of England by the present line of mail steamers, and with a good line of steamers it could easily be reached in 10 days.

All the work here is done by blacks, and costs on the average about £1 per week each for food and wages. White miners could not do the work in this climate, and they could not exist on the rate of wages paid to the negroes. But for hardy and experienced men, prospectors accustomed to hot climates and to roughing it, with at least from £200 to £300 hard cash each, there are good chances to make something handsome.

A Tale of the Ozarks.

The Ozark mountains of Missouri present a field for lovers of the curious which is not to be found on this side of Old Mexico. The whole country was at one time under the dominion of the Spanish, when they first explored this part of the continent, and their relics are to be found all over the hills in the shape of excavations and old mines, and in many instances their very tools are to be found just where they left them 100 or 200 years ago. But it is not only their relics and tools that are left as a reminder of the Spanish explorers, but they have left legends and stories which have been handed down with implicit faith from generation to generation until they have become part of the history of the country.

About 18 miles soutwest of Galena, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, is an old Spanish mine which is reputed to be rich with gold and silver as well as with lead, and no man has had the temerity to work the mine on account of the story which is attached to it, and the certain uncanny feeling which is said to overcome anyone who dares to profane the place with his presence. The story is that in this mine great riches were found by 7 men who were so overcome by their good fortune that they could not agree as to the division of the find, but each was eager to have the whole for himself, and the result was that one by one they were killed by their companions until but one man was left, and then it is related that during the night he was set upon by the whole ghostly band and was chocked to death by the spirits of the men whom he had helped to murder.

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Hot Springs News.

MINING LAW REFORM.

On all hands it is agreed that the Mineral act of 1892 has worked irretrievable mischief to the prospector; has reduced the mineral jurisprudence of this province to chaos, and has sown the seeds of a crop of litigation which will eventually entail a serious tax upon the province's most important industry. We have already pointed out a few of its defects and some of the hardships it involves. It remains to show how these all, or nearly all, spring directly or indirectly from one central defect which vitiates the usefulness of the whole act, because it denies the fundamental principles of mining and cuts off the prospector from the full benefit of his discovery. Very little attention has, as yet, been directed to this particular section of the mining law, because, as in the case of the most deep-rooted and dangerous diseases, its effects will not be felt till the mining industry has more or less arrived at maturity. We refer to the section which deprives the claim-owner of what are known as extralateral rights.

To go back to first principles, what the prospector discovers is a mineral lode, that is to say, a section of the earth's crust, of indeterminate length, which may be of any width and which descends at an indefinite angle for an indeterminate distance into the bowels of the earth. This a correct theoretical definition of a lode. Practically, a lode may not be quite continuous, the angle of descent may vary in the same lode, the lode may even take an upward turn and then go down again. But the mineral lode must be legislated for according to its type, and eccentrics must be squared off by common sense as they occur. It is impossible to make general rules to cover every particular example.

We imagine that the prospector has a right to what he discovers, in so far as his right does not interfere with the rights of anyone else. This is sound law from the time of Justinian (we might say Adam) downwards. It has been judged expedient in the public interest to limit the prospector's right in the length of his lode to 1500 feet. Opinion has decreed, and law has backed it up, that this is a sufficient appropriation for one man. If a prospector were to claim more than this he would come into collision with the rights of other people. But the same does not hold with regard to his claim in a vertical direction.

No one has a better right to the precious mineral beyond the side lines of his surface location than the miner who has demonstrated its existence by following his lode down to so great a depth.

While the miner's right is thus clearly demonstrated we quite realise the difficulties which led to the passing of an act which denies that right. No question has ever given rise to so much legislation as this matter of extralateral rights in mining. The subject is involved in much legal and practical obscurity, which has, however, all arisen from the fact that the surface rights of the miner were considered as having something to do with determining his extralateral rights. Which is not really so. What determines his rights is the length of the lode contained within the boundary lines of his claim. And according to the most enlightened decisions of the U. S. mining courts the miner is only entitled to work that section of the lode bounded by lines drawn at right angles to its general direction from the points of contact between the surface croppings of the lode and the boundary lines of his claim. Thus the lode is worked along its entire known length in parallel sections, which cannot interfere with each other, and regarding which no dispute can arise which cannot be settled by the instruments of the mine surveyor.

In our own law it is the denial of those rights which has given rise to the most monstrous absurdities of the present system. It is that which has led to a claim's being allowed 1500 feet width, a futile and foolish expedient, as the apex of more than one lode is frequently to be found within 1500 feet, and lode No. 2 may dip outside the claim within 50 or 100 feet.

The extraordinary size of a claim, again, has made it difficult to legislate that a prospector should blaze a line round the boundaries of his claim, because without a survey it is impossible, even approximately, to define those boundaries. And from the want of defined boundaries has arisen all the trouble of overlapping claims and the consequent confusion and possibilities of fraud. The miners of this country must take the matter up. They must see to it that a coherent and rational law regulates the industry in which they have everything at stake.

SUMMONS.

In the Supreme Court of British Columbia.—Between John A. Mara, plaintiff, and Yee Tong, defendant.

Whereas, John A. Mara of Kamloops, B. C., has commenced an action against Yee Tong of Nelson, B. C., in the Supreme Court of British Columbia, by writ of that court dated the 11th day of January, 1892, which writ is indorsed with a claim for $94.87 for debt and interest.

And Whereas, an order was made in this court on the 31st day of August, 1892, for substituted service on the said Yee Tong by advertisement in The Miner newspaper for 3 successive weeks.

Notice is hereby given that the said defendant, Yee Tong, is required to appear in this action within 8 days, otherwise the action will proceed against him, and judgment may be given in his absence. The said defendant, Yee Tong, may appear to the said writ by entering an appearance personally, or by his solicitor, at the office of the district registrar of the Supreme Court at Kamloops, B. C.

FRED'K J. FULTON, of Kamloops, B. C.,
Solicitor for the plaintiff, John A. Mara.

Kamloops, B. C., 3rd September, 1892.

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CREAM OF THE WORLD'S NEWS.

Live fish have recently safely been sent in the mails from India to the British Museum.

Germany's new military bill reduces the term of service, but adds 60,000,000 marks to the budget.

The British war office authorities are dispatching to India the first installment of the improved magazine rifle.

An uprising in Bolivia is expected at any moment. A very uneasy feeling exists everywhere throughout the republic.

A new species of bear has been shot in Thibet. The animal was chocolate colored, with a white collar, and is quite unknown to naturalists.

The steamer Islander, just returned from Alaska, brings word that the small-pox has broken out amongst the Indians. Precautions are being taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

At a meeting of the Canadian cabinet on September 4, the cholera question was the subject of discussion and it was decided to issue stringent quarantine regulations to meet the urgency of the case.

Louis G. Brenan, the inventor of the famous $550,000 torpedo, is by birth an Irishman, but has spent much of his life in Australia. He was offered $850,000 for his torpedo by Russia but preferred to sell it to England.

A report comes from Buenos Ayres that $500,000,000 in currency passed through Celman's hands while he was president of the Argentine Republic, and that the country derived but little benefit from it. This seems to have been the biggest game of bunco on record.

The total strength of the Chinese army is about 000,000 men, of whom more than 200,000 are permanently stationed at Peking. The arms of these troops are of the most primitive types and consist principally of long spears and knives secured to long poles, bows and arrows and clubs.

Moorish corsairs recently boarded and robbed a Spanish trading vessel between cape Juby and Rio-Doro, and captured 11 of the 16 members of the crew. After securing the cargo the pirates deserted the ship. When the trader was boarded by the corsairs, five of the crew made their escape in a boat which was subsequently picked up at sea by the Spanish schooner Venguaza. After rescuing the five men the vessel proceeded to the spot where the Jacob was attacked, a distance of 45 miles, and found the vessel had been set adrift by the pirates.

The steamer Elbe from Hamburg arrived in the Tyne, England, September 4, with one of the officers down with cholera. He was removed to the floating hospital provided for cholera patients, but died this morning. The steamer has been placed in quarantine. There were reported throughout Russia on Friday 3812 new cases and 1651 deaths from cholera. In the city of St. Petersburg 103 new cases and 40 deaths were reported yesterday. It should be stated that these figures include only the cases taken to hospitals. Compared with the official figures of Thursday returns for Russia show a decrease of 2861 new cases and 923 deaths. The steamer Clement arrived in the Mersey from Hamburg, where 2 of her crew died from the epidemic. On the voyage 7 others were attacked with the disease. They landed at Falmouth, and the other 4 are still on board the steamer. They are recovering and the vessel has been placed in quarantine.

Princes who cannot Borrow.

In regard to the Prussian royal family there is an excellent law. No royal prince is allowed to borrow, and no one is allowed to lend money to him. If any one does lend he cannot recover. Acting on this law, Frederick the Great never repaid any Prussian who had lent him money when he was heir to the throne, for he deemed that such a person had not only violated the law but ought to lose his money for having done an improper action. Were one of the English princes to borrow money, and an application to be made to parliament to repay it, the strong probability is that the house of commons would follow the example of Frederick the Great.

W. J. WILSON. W. PERDUE.

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This Company now Offers for Sale a Number of Choice Business or Residential Lots on Easy Terms. Rebate Given for Good Buildings on

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FOR PARTICULARS APPLY - - **F. FLETCHER,** LAND COMMISSIONER, NELSON, B. C.

KASLO NOTES.

Buchanan & Dawes have bought lots 13 and 14, block 3.

Messrs. Fielding and Bucke have moved into their new offices on Front street.

D. Giles has bought lots 19 and 20, block 5, on Front street, and is building an office there which he intends to use himself as a real estate and mining broker's office.

Three mines are now shipping ore regularly—the Whitewater, Best and Dardanelles, the first installment of the last named reached Kaslo on the 7th inst. consisting of 2600 pounds of steel galena, averaging in value $500 to $600 per ton.

Messrs. Hendry and Ewen, the managing directors of the Kaslo townsite company, arrived on Tuesday last, and on Wednesday evening attended a large mass meeting of the citizens of Kaslo, called to put the finishing touches to the wagon road project. Mr. S. S. Baillie made a long speech, describing the present situation of the mine-owners on the Kaslo-Slocan divide, and avowing for himself and others their intention to send their ore out by way of Nakusp if a wagon road from there is put in, and no attempt is made to improve the present means of transport to Kaslo. Several other gentlemen spoke, all agreeing in insisting on the importance of pushing through the proposed road, and urging the representatives of the townsite company to supplement the amount already subscribed by the citizens by a donation large enough to ensure the road being built, at any rate, as far as Bear lake this fall. The matter was eventually referred to a small committee to talk it thoroughly over with messrs. Hendry and Ewen. The resnlt of the conference is seen in the advertisement for tenders published in this week's MINER. Kaslo has had a hard and a long fight of it, but by sheer pertinacity she is at last within measurable distance of getting what she wants, and what will, she firmly believes, ensure her rapid and continuous growth.

Kaslo Road Meeting.

A very enthusiastic meeting to discuss the prospect of raising sufficient funds to construct a wagon road from Kaslo city to the mouth of Cody creek, in the Slocan country, was held at that city on Thursday evening at the Presbyterian church. About 250 persons were present, including in that number messrs. Hendry and Ewen of the townsite company, and a great many of the prominent mine-owners in the Kaslo-Slocan region. All parties seemed inclined to be liberal in their subscriptions to the proposed road. The citizens of Kaslo had signed negotiable notes to the amount of $10,000. The townsite company expressed a willingness to give about an equal amount, and the different mine-owners expressed an opinion that an equal amount of subscriptions, to be paid in ore from their body, could be obtained. Altogether, it looks as if the wagon road may be built.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

Yesterday morning a destructive fire occurred whereby the British Columbia Iron works, Vancouver, one of the largest and most prosperous industrial establishments of the city, was completely destroyed, and at present time, with the exception of the company's offices, the whole of the buildings, machinery, etc., are in ruins.

Encouraging news is brought from Yale by William Teague. There are at present about 25 men doing development work and prospecting on Siwash creek. On several claims assessment work is finished, and the owners are now turning their attention to searching for new lodes.

Lord Haghen, said to belong to one of the first families in the peerage of Ireland, has been arrested for vagrancy in New Westminster and sent to the common jail for 2 months. His lordship was at one time inspector in the Royal Irish constabulary, and still draws a handsome pension for past services, which, however he squanders on drink almost as soon as received. When under the influence of liquor the old constabulary spirit asserts itself in him and he stays up whole nights in some dark corner waiting to arrest an imaginary offender.

The Tomb of Behring.

During the cruise last year of the Aleut, a schooner attached to the Russian Siberian flotilla, the officers of that vessel landed on Behring island in search of the grave of the discoverer of those straits. The bones of Behring and his companions in misfortune were found buried beneath a simple cairn of rough stones carelessly piled. The officers resolved to replace the cairn by a more worthy memorial, and on their return to Vladivostock a collection was set on foot among the officers of the Siberian squadron, with the result that a handsome and durable granite toombstone, surmounted by an iron cross, has now been completed. The memorial will be transported from Vladivostock and placed over the lonely grave on Behring island next month. Captain Vitus Behring, as is well known, was a Dane by birth, but was in the Russian naval service when his important discovery was made in 1728. He died December 4, 1741 (O.S.), from scurvy, on Behring island, where he and his companions had sought refuge after the foundering of their ship.

DISSOLUTION OF COPARTNERSHIP.

Notice is hereby given that the unregistered partnership heretofore existing between HENRY ANDERSON and JOHN L. RETALLACK, agents, of Ainsworth, B. C., is by mutual consent this day dissolved. The business will be conducted as before by HENRY ANDERSON alone.

H. ANDERSON.
JOHN L. RETALLACK.

Ainsworth, September 5th, 1892.

We have in stock a car of rattan and willow goods, just received. JAS. McDONALD & CO.

APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE.

Notice is hereby given that I intend to apply at the next sitting of the licensing board for a hotel license to sell liquor at Kaslo, B.C. ANDREW REVSBECH.

Nelson, 8th August, 1892.

DISSOLUTION OF COPARTNERSHIP.

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned, as owners of the steamboat Ainsworth, on Kootenay lake, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. All debts owing to the said partnership are to be paid to David Bremner of Ainsworth, and all claims against the said partnership are to be presented to the said David Bremner, who assumes all the liabilities.

Dated at Ainsworth this 20th day of August, A. D., 1892.

Witnesses:
O. H. BURDEN,
J. HIRSCH.

D. BREMNER,
SAMUEL LOVATT,
W. JEVONS.

CARNEY & BARRETT

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