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HOW GOLD IS EXTRACTED.

The New Processes Have Added Millions to the Output.

The ordinary method of gold extraction,as almost every one knows,is to crush the ore to a fine powder and run this over amalgam plates of quicksilver, The gold is precipitated upon the plates, and afterwards scraped off. But by this means, even by the best devices,only about half the gold values are saved. The rest goes off in a kind of slime which is known as tailings. In South Africa the amount lost by this method is almost exactly one-half. In other words, if the ore runs $8 or $10 to the ton, only $4 or $5 in gold is gained. It is here that cyanide comes into play. The "tailings"are gathered up and deposited into huge vats containing a weak solution of cyanide of potassium. This chemical has a peculiar affinity for gold and takes it up, just as water dissolves salt or sugar. The gold is held in solution. When this leaching process,as it is known, is complete,when all the gold has been dissolved out the gold laden liquid is run through a kind of a filter made of bright zinc shavings cut very fine. This precipitates the metal, and afterwards when the solution of cyanide has been run off, these zinc shavings are put in clear water and thoroughly shaken , with the result that the gold falls off and is deposited in the bottom of the tub. Here it is gathered up and put through the refinery, and comes out, sometimes al most pure and sometimes in a coarse bullion.

Where ores are of low grade they are not put through the stamp mills at all,but are crushed to a fine granulation and treated directly by the cyanide. This is the case with the Cripple Creek ores of low grade, as with the ores of New Zealand and many other countries. In New Zealand 80 or 90 per cent of the gold values is obtained by this means; in South Africa between 30 and 40. In the latter case this saving affords not only the entire profit there is in working the mines, but even more. So that it is fair to say that without cyanide there practically would be no South Africa gold field.

But the new process has not been always so successful. In California,for example, it has so far been found of little value. Then too,there is among mining men,or was until very recently, a decided prejudice against the new method. When it was first brought out five or six years ago it was hailed as a panacea for every ill that gold mining knew. It was to treat every sort of rock, and all with equal success. And in many instances failed,and many experienced men concluded that it was not worth much of anything at all. The truth lay between the two extremes.

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A great need of the Kootenay country is the appointment of a resident County Court Judge who would with naturally increasing frequency be required to adjudicate on legal issues affecting the rapidly enlarging mining interests of the district. Enough of such work is gradually accumulating to call for a resident Judge.

WANTED ALL OVER THE DISTRICT

Another need of the interior and southern sections of the Province= and in this older and younger places are a unit in their outcry for improvement=is a proper mail service. To quote instances of delayed and ineffectual postal delivery in British Columbia's mining country would unduly engross our limited space. And surly a Province which contributes so largely as ours to Dominion revenue, is entitled in common justice to far more liberal treatment and better mail facilities than it possesses. We might also remark, that in denying us these advantages, the Dominion authorities adopt a"cent wise, dollar foolish"policy,since nothing so greatly tends to promote business activity in a country as a good mail system,and in a rich mineral land like this, activity encouraged means a large return in revenue to the national exchequer. M.Record.

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WHAT THE KAMLOOPS SENTINEL HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

In the course of its article the Sentinel says: "There seems to be no doubt in the public mind that the Government of which the present Chief Justice Davie was head made certain promises to the railway company that such aid would be given by the province as would enable the company to proceed with the construction of the road. It is equally certain that on this account the electors of Vancouver Island,and particularly of Victoria City,hoped to profit greatly by the building of the road, and therefore gave their support to the government candidates,with the result that not one oppositionist was returned from the Island constituencies.It must be admitted that the government was pledged to the company and to the people of the Island to bonus the road in a very substancial manner.===That the government had any political or moral right to make such a pledge cannot for a moment be admitted.But it was a desperate case with the government,and particularly with the government's leader,at the time of the last election. They played a desperate game and they won;but victory in this case may have been too dearly bought.The late leader of the government left a frightful legacy of tribulation to his successors.For any government,under any circumstances,on the eve of an election,to pledge the whole country as a sacrifice to the selfish interests of a section of the people is immoral,and in this case the sin committed is producing the most baleful results."There can be no doubt in any reasonable mind that the government offered pledges to the people of Victoria, as the Sentinel says.If the members of the government had to learn afterwards that their pledges were impossible of fulfilment,they were a set of imbeciles;if they knew at the time that their promises could not and would not be carried out they must be set down as a set of political rogues.

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Charles Amesceame in with two teams from Tobacco Plains to day.

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The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday April 4th.

All possible information, will be furnished by the Association upon application to
Thomas.McVittie,Sec.Fort Steele B.C.

Prior to the commencement of the present Provincial session, members of the Legislature almost everywhere,met their constituents and asked them to make known their wants,in order to decide with full local knowledge , questions of public work appropriations. Considerably more has however,very naturlly,been asked than it is in the power of the government to grant. Amongst appropriations thus asked were several in respect of aid to hospitals,and other public institutions. Hospitals , are partial necessities in certain places,but trails,roads,and bridges are wholly indispensible to new sections. Many of these new sections possess mineral in plenty,but have no means of getting it out. Hence with all deference to the more settled districts, we think that localities lacking roads and trails should fairly assert a prior claim.

If the government would hit the lower Kootenay, with a few dollars,we would like it very much.

PLACER MINING IN EAST KOOTENAY.

There are comparatively few people who know anything of the extent of placer mining in this section, there is a popular idea that the days when placer mining can be carried on with its need of profit has passed, this idea is held for the reason that it is claimed that the placer fields here,"in this district", have been discovered, and the wealth long ago extracted. The truth about placer mining however is that future years will see a larger yeild of placer gold than has ever been in the past. As proof of this fact, it is only necessary to note the preparations that are being made at Wild Horse creek by the Invicta Co,the Nip & Tuck, the International and the China Companies. other localities are perhaps just as promising. The Wild Horse creek diggings were first worked in the year 1864 and the crude appliances of those days were used to the best advantage and Millions of dollars were taken out, after awhile however many of the "old Timers" abandoned the diggings as worked out, at present there is four strong companies interested in placer mining on Wild Horse creek, two of which are shipping in additional improved machinery which will shortly be in active operation,and the future yield will surely prove that as in the past,the coming season will show that there is more gold yet to be taken from Wild Horse creek.

THE ASSESSMENT ACT.

The Provincial Legislature, have decided(on account of the strong opposition coming from all the mining districts) to abandon the original bill, placing a 2% tax on the gross output of the mines. The amended assessment bill provides for a 1% Tax after deducting the cost of treatment and transportation if there is any,and an allowance of $3 a ton for cost of mining. Every owner of a placer or hydraulic mine shall at the end of each year be entitled to a refund or rebate of the amount of taxes that have been charged upon the actual working expenses of the mine during the preceeding season as they are computed and determined, excluding all cost and outlay which may be properly charged to Capital account. We are pleased to see that the Government have shown some common sense in dealing with the matter finally.

INVESTIGATE BEFORE BUYING.

The great activity that is sure to come in this section this Spring and Summer, no doubt will throw upon the market some mining property of no value,It behooves the Purchaser to keep his weather eye open at all times. Investigate before buying and you will have no kick coming later on.

FAIRLY IN IT.

Hewitt.Bostock,has bought the Kamloops Sentinel,and placed William.Bailey"formerly of the Toronto Globe"as Editor. It will be run as a "Clear Grit" organ in the future.

THE STEAMER ANNERLY.

The Steamer Annerly will leave Jennings Montana for Fort Steele on the 15th of April,and will arrive here on the 18th.

COMING.

M.Phillipps,S.M.will be up from Tobacco Plains to hold his"usual"small debts court"it is needless to say that we are always glad to see him as he is one of our most useful and popular officials.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE PROSPECTOR.

ROUND TOWN.

The usual Easter Services will be held at the School Room on Easter Sunday Evening at 7 1/2 Oclock, The Choir have arranged a special musical programme for the service. The discourse will be "On the Resurrection from the Dead".

The School Room, has been neatly decorated for the Easter Sunday Services, with festoons, Mottoes and Evergreens, by the Ladies and Gentlemen of the "Willing workers Society.

The Easter Offerings, will be devoted to clearing off the debt in connection with the Church.

Our Gold Commissioner Armstrong with his Brother is expected here on the stage Sunday.

A special Committee will meet Mr, Armstrong S.M. to discuss Roads Streets and Bridges, and other matter connected with this section.

The Public School closed on Thursday for the Easter Holidays, and will open again on the 6th of April at 9 Oclock, when a punctual attendance of the Pupils is requested. The number of Pupils on the role is 18, and the average attendance for the month was 15, and the progress made by the Pupils was very good.

Mrs, J.T. Galbraith, and her daughter Hazel, have gone to Fairmont Hot Springs for the Easter Holidays.

The Carlin & Durick teams came in from Golden during the week loaded with groceries.

The Chenier team made a good trip from Golden with supplies for the Dalgardno House.

The DeRosier teams came in from Tobacco Plains loaded with supplies for Easter.

The Egg season is fairly in. the DeRosier teams brought in 250 dozen, and consequently the Guests at the Dalgardno House will have the usual Easter spread on Sunday Mornin'.

The Fenwick farm on the river has been leased to Mr, DeRosier for ten years. And the Tom. Fenwick place to Mr, Bargett of Fairmont for 5 years, who it is understood will shortly commence ~~daiving.~~ dairying.

Friday last was observed as a Holiday by the Chinese, when the time honoured custom of feeding the Dead was observed.

Harry, O'Donaghee and Chas, Elwood came in from Kalispel on Wednesday. they will rustle in the Mountains as soon as the snow will permit.

If all the People, that say that they are coming on the first boatkeep their word, They will have to put an extension on the Annerly that will reach to Elk river, also Horse car to complete the trip.

Jack, Wise. Abe. Furman and Jim. Bell from the Flat-head, have located ranches on the Skookum Chuck.

Dont forget the Mining Association meeting to night, the Hospital question will be discussed and all those interested are invited.

INCREASE IN CANADA:S MINERAL WEALTH.

According to the report of the mines department of the geological survey, the mineral production of Canada shows a substantial increase for the past year. The total, including building materials and clay products amounted to $22.500.000. as against $20.900.000. for 1894 and $20.500.000. for 1891, the two highest previous years. There was a sudden rise in the ratio of increase last year, due, to the development going on in this province. When the statistics for the current year are compiled a still greater addition to the output will probably be recorded, and it seems reasonable to expect a constant growth, though the rate of increase may not be steady. It is quite certain that if the provincial government's foolish mining tax bill had been passed in its original shape it would have sharply checked the upward tendency, and the province has had a narrow escape from a severe blow to its growing industry. It is to be hoped that no further experimenting of so dangerous a character will be indulged in.

THE X RAYS.

The X" rays have been employed in securing evidence in a Montreal criminal trial, probably the first time on record. One Holder was charged with shooting a young man named Cunning on the street, and the Roentgen process was used to establish the fact that the bullet was imbedded in the victim's leg. Holder got 14 years imprisonment.

ROUND TOWN.

Speculating in mining stocks is one thing; investment in mining properties is another. In regard to the former, we have no advice to give, but, so far as the latter is concerned, we say to investors Keep your eyes on the Fort Steele district of B.C.

Wm. Forsyth of the Mountain House, has fitted up a livery stable in order to accommodate the patrons of the hotel.

A large party will go to the mission Sunday to attend Church, and witness the procession of the Indians after the services.

On the 18th inst, the old familiar cry of - "STEAMBOAT" will be heard all over town.

About ten men have been working on the Invicta companies claim, making ready for the new outfit which will arrive shortly.

The new assay office is nearly completed, and Messers Cowell & Wallinger, will be ready for business during the coming week.

The Banks Bro's came in from the Dardenelles to day, they report the mine in good shape, and the ore looking fine.

Charles Levett, has commenced to put in his crop, Charlie is a rustler, and says that he is going to show the boys how to farm.

It is reported that there was a meeting of the Bostock contingency this afternoon.

Politics are ripe at present, in another month they will be red hot.

There is gold in the mountains, There is silver in the hills; and the Prospector that will prospect, and attend to his business faithfully is sure to get there with both feet, and find a good mine.

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