

NEWS OF THE MINES

Omineca Has Had Most Active Season in Thirty-Five Years—Mandy Says Portland Canal in Sound Position—Big Missouri Progressing

More gold is coming out of the Omineca country and more active mining and prospecting is going on than at any time in the last thirty-five years, according to William B. Steele, who has been a resident of the Manson Creek country since 1898 and has been deputy mining recorder there for twenty-six years. At New Slate Creek is the big dragline outfit of the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co. of which W. M. Ogilvie is manager. The plant has been working three shifts and there are about forty men employed. About six miles west of Slate Creek on Germansen Creek Robert C. McCorkell of Germansen Placers has nine miles of ditch and flume and is bringing water for hydraulicking from Germansen Creek. On Manson Creek, downstream from the mouth of Slate Creek, Bert McCorkell has been mining a high lead of Manson by the dragline method. At the mouth of Kildare Gulch a number of prospectors are working over old ground. On Lost Creek James Dunsmore and Harrison Hall are driving a tunnel through the rimrock to tap an old tunnel run some years earlier by Steele and Mullen. A lot of prospecting has been done this season in preparation for the installation of a dragline outfit next year. On the site of Omineca City Silja and Hagberg are working hydraulic and are getting good gold. They are reported to have taken out a good deal in excess of \$3000 this season. They are enlarging their ditch and look forward to longer operations next year. At Plug Hat, on the left bank of Germansen Creek, about two and a half miles up from the mouth, Ward and Bauer have installed a hydraulic outfit. O. J. Ories of Germansen Landing is developing eight mineral claims on both sides of the creek with good values being recovered. On Tom Creek, about twenty miles east of Takla Landing, James Warren and partners have installed an engine and pump and are drifting out from a shaft they sank last fall. Quite good pay in coarse gold is being recovered. For the first time wagons have been making the Manson Creek country on more or less regular trips this season with provisions, dry goods, etc. for sale to miners on the various creeks. The return trip from Stuart Lake to the north during the summer took thirteen days but, in the early part of the season, the journey took twice that time. The freight rate from Port St. James to Manson Creek is six cents per pound.

The Portland Canal district is in a sounder position today than it has been at any time in its history with a foundation being laid generally for steady progress towards bringing in new producers. declares Dr. Joseph T. Mandy, resident mining engineer, who recently returned to the city after making an exhaustive inspection of mining properties in that area. "This condition will persist," says Dr. Mandy, "providing sound policies of preliminary development are pursued. In this connection it is particularly essential that extravagant ideas and hazardous projections be eliminated from the scope of necessary exploratory operations. The persistence in the search for gold and a clearer understanding of

the geological conditions governing gold is bearing tangible results and gold possibilities are being definitely indicated where they would not otherwise have been suspected. This aspect will have a decided effect in the rehabilitation of the mining industry in the Portland Canal area and may attract capital that otherwise might not have been available until a much later date. At the present time the important aspect of this district is its gold potentialities which are being definitely indicated and expanded. The more intensive and detailed prospecting of sections immediately contiguous to the town of Stewart and the Canal is urged. Many old properties have been very imperfectly explored and surprises may await the prospector in this respect. On properties that have showings heretofore considered of small consequence detailed prospecting may quite readily expose showings of importance. If these principles are followed, the future of Stewart and district can be considered as extremely promising." In speaking of Alice Arm Dr. Mandy expresses himself as being very interested in the west side of the upper Kitsault Valley area heretofore known as the copper belt where he has defined favorable geological and structural conditions for gold deposition which he believes will primarily contribute to the rehabilitation of the mining industry in the Alice Arm area.

Developments of the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co. on the Big Missouri property at Stewart are being pushed along on schedule. The 2850 level, sometimes referred to as the Province tunnel, recently broke through into open on the west side of the ridge, permitting the completion of the snowshed and equipping it for transportation of material, power and supplies from the main camp to the portal of 2250, the driving of which has already been started. At about 160 feet from the portal of 2250 it is understood a raise will be driven to connect with the lower end of the snowshed. Coincident with this work, development will be continued, it is understood, on and above 2850 level. D. S. Campbell, superintendent of Big Missouri, passed through the city Wednesday of this week after a three weeks' trip south.

Charles Bunting, one of the original owners of the Premier mine, is reported at Stewart to have committed suicide recently in London, England. He leaves a brother, William Bunting, resident in Vancouver.

Owing to lateness of the season and inability to get a plane, members and employees of two syndicates that flew into the Unuk River mining country from Stewart a couple of months ago had to walk out to Stewart. Those hiking out

were H. Melville, W. Prout, J. Krugg, Slim Carlson and E. Edwardson of the Unuk River Gold Syndicate and Ralph Swartfugger, Harry Kay, Jack Storey and Ole Bjourke of the Unuk Valley Gold, whose property adjoins that of the Unuk River Gold Syndicate. It is known that exceptionally good results were obtained from diamond drilling on the ground of the Unuk River Gold Syndicate. This, together with the surface work that was undertaken, has given much valuable information. The drills have disclosed good widths of ore averaging \$15 in gold with much higher values over narrow margins. Development of the Unuk Valley Gold ground was confined to extensive open cutting which gave very encouraging results and members of this syndicate are well satisfied. Three additional claims have been staked by this syndicate.

William Dann, manager of the United Empire mine, on his return to Stewart following a recent visit in Prince Rupert, stated that he had been given to understand that a rotary snow plow would be available for the roads of the Stewart district during the coming winter. This is welcome news for the Portland Canal mining interests.

Paul Everest, field engineer for the Britannia Mining & Smelting Co., after having spent the most of the summer in the Portland Canal district, is at present in the Alice Arm field.

More power has been made available for the town of Stewart as well as for mining requirements in the neighborhood by the Northern British Columbia Power Company last week putting into commission a big diesel engine at the Dunwell mine. This is only a temporary measure pending the securing of a new site at or near tidewater, negotiations for which are under way.

The Department of Mines at Ottawa has requested the Germansen Mining Co. to forward to Ottawa for exhibition purposes a big nug-

get which was found in the company's operations on Germansen Creek during the past season. It is likely the request will be complied with. The nugget weighs 22½ ounces and is valued at approximately \$700. It is said to have been the largest nugget found in Canada in over forty years.

Harold Garden B. C. L. S. has left Stewart for his home in Vancouver after having spent the season in the Portland Canal district engaged by D. B. Morkill B. C. L. S. in the surveying of mineral claims.

The work of repairing the Bolly Varden Railway, an integral factor of transportation in connection with all mining activity in the Alice Arm district, has just been commenced with sixteen men employed under the foremanship of Jack Graham. An appropriation of \$3000 was recently made by the public works department for the work. Since repair work started, activities have been centred on a washout at Four Mile on the completion of which the crew will be moved further up the line.

F. W. Buckie, field engineer for the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting & Power Co., has been recently examining properties in

the upper Kitsault country of Alice Arm for his company.

W. B. George, formerly well known in mining affairs of the Portland Canal district, has been in the Casiar district during the past season inspecting placer leases.

In 1933 Premier Gold Mining Co. purchased in Vancouver \$301,500 worth of supplies. The orders as well as the goods themselves passed through Prince Rupert.

Tailings which for the past fourteen years have been dumped from the mill at the Premier mine have now been found to carry large gold values per ton. These tailings are of considerable amount and already steps are being taken to recover the values. A mountain stream having been running through the tailings, the gold content has to a certain extent settled. All that has to be done now is suck the concentrate and ship it to smelter.

For repairs to her stern tube, C. N. R. steamer Prince John was jacked on the pontoons at the local dry dock today following arrival from the Queen Charlotte Islands. The vessel will be out of the water only a short time.



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