

## SIMPLE LEGISLATORS.

### YANKEE AWAY AHEAD.

Heavily Bonussed Which  
Which Would Have Been Built  
Otherwise Without It.

Messrs. Bodwell & Irving, solicitors for D. C. Corbin, are giving out that they will apply to the Dominion parliament at the next session for a charter to build a line from a point on the Canadian and Northern railway through the Christina lake section to Kettle river, thence up this river to Grand Forks, thence across the international boundary line at Carson, and proceed into the Solville Indian reservation, probably to Euricka camp. Now, it is dollars to doughnuts that the above astute gentleman will not also ask the Dominion government for a subsidy to aid in the construction of his line. He worked the local government before, and it now only remains to play the same game on the federal government. When he was building his Canadian and Northern railway, concessions he received from the State of Washington were only a right of way through the lands, nothing more. He had to buy the right of way in the mining country through which he had passed, and had also to lease the right of way into Canada. So much for the railway policy of our friends across the line, now let us look at the local policy with regard to the same matter. Mr. Corbin's plan was to reach Nelson with his line and thus tap the centre of a mining region. His line, therefore, as regards the attainment of this end, and almost for any other reason, was practically worthless to him from Spokane to the International boundary. At the moment it crossed the boundary and reached Nelson it would have proved an immensely paying concern. It is reasonable to suppose, then, that Mr. Corbin would have pushed this line to its terminus had he received nothing but the right of way. But he was not a seeing gentleman, or rather he understood the foibles of the government as regards railways, and instead of only requesting the right of way, asks also for a land grant and cash subsidy. He got

must have smiled to himself at the simplicity of the Canadian officials. And what has this railway done for British Columbia and what for Washington. For British Columbia it was the means of making the province poorer both in dollars and land, against which the assets from mine and land development does not nearly balance. For Washington it has built up a thriving city, in Spokane, and transferred the commercial centre of Kootenay to American territory. It has also had the effect of making the stock-raisers of the prairie provinces look sick as regards the beef supply of Kootenay, the farmers of Washington being able to supply that demand with greater facility than it is possible for the prairie farmer to do and thus adding another channel to those already draining the fruits of Canadian resources into American coffers.

Had the government let Mr. Corbin bring his road from the international boundary into Nelson as he had from Spokane to the line, the road would have been built just the same and the country in just that much in land and money. The Toric will watch with interest Mr. Corbin's future moves and it will be disappointed if he does not attempt to tap the Federal government for a few thousand acres more of land and a little of Canadian money.

In connection with the land grant to this corporation, as far as the mines are concerned it is well known that if they were not exceptionally rich they would expend a great proportion of their earnings in paying for timber on those lands adjacent to the mines and which should have been reserved, by the government for their especial use.

We have, then, the spectacle of a government enormously bonussing a railway which, until it reached Canadian soil, was worthless to its promoters. The state of Washington, which was to reap the benefits from the construction of the line, contributing only the right of way through State lands. And lastly, the promoters accepting these meagre concessions from the State, relying on our provincial government to make good this expenditure by presents of money and land. Past history proves that their estimate of the government's business capacity was a correct one.

The dance at the Windsor hotel on New Year's Eve was a good one. It was well attended and as the music was good, the floor in splendid condition, and the eat-

## SOME PROMISING PROPERTIES

### MOLLY MACK & HORNE LEDGES

A Short Account of Properties Which  
Will in Future Push Trout Lake  
District to the Front.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

**THE MOLLY MACK LEDGE**—This vein has been staked continuously for over two miles on Gainer creek and Golden Gulch creek, a tributary of the former. The trend of this vein is the same as many others in this district, viz., north west and south east and dips about 50 degrees to the west. Some of the prominent claims on this lead are: The Moonbeam, Red Rover, Green Hill, Flobeck, Beauregard, and Molly Mack. A large amount of work has been done on these claims, and the owners have been justified in their expectations, by uncovering from four to six feet of good ore. These claims are within three miles of a good wagon road, and are reached at present by an A. 1 pack trail.

Many tons of ore are stacked on the several dumps of these claims awaiting the completion of the wagon road up Gainer creek. This wagon road when completed will pass through Ten Mile, the coming "Butte" of B. C. The preliminary lines for a railroad were run from Thomson's Landing through Ferguson, Ten Mile, and up Gainer creek last summer.

### THE GREAT HORSE LEDGE.

—This ledge is situated at the headwaters of the north fork of the Lardeau river, and there are upwards of twenty claims staked on it. Of the following good claims you hear or read very little, viz., The Boss, Jenny Lind, Ski, Rob Roy, Highland Chief, Centre Star Yankee Girl, Iron Horse, Canadian Girl, Celtic, and others. The trend of this vein is north west and south east, and dips about 55 degrees to the west. The vein shows a big iron capping carrying galena, and wherever any work has been done and the capping removed, large bodies of ore are exposed. Assays made of ore from different claims give from 60 to 250 ounces silver, upwards of 60 per cent lead, and \$4 gold. The vein varies from two to five feet in width. It appears on the slope of the Little Duncan and a group of three claims staked on it are known as the Holy Moses Group.

head of the south fork of the Lardeau river, then over the summit and across the headwaters of Haley creek, and down the west side of Lake creek, in all a distance of about twenty miles.

What is needed to bring the above mentioned claims into the front rank as producers is the investment of a small amount of capital in the construction of "works", to treat the ore, at the mouth of either Gainer creek, Surprise creek, Pass creek, or the main north fork of the Lardeau river. That portion of this district Nature has generously supplied with water, and water-power, also a boundless stock of fine timber.

There are also numerous other claims, staked on what is known as the Blackburn and Constock ledge, which will be dealt with in a later edition.

### Ball at the Trout Lake Hotel.

On Xmas eve last the young people of the district assembled to enjoy themselves at a social ball given in the Trout Lake hotel, owned by Mrs. Jowett. It was one of the best dances ever given in the district and amply testified the pains the hostess must have taken in producing such a pleasing effect on all who attended it. Nothing was left undone which would add to the enjoyment of the evening, and if the words of the participants go for anything, a more enjoyable time was never spent in Trout Lake City. The meal was exceptionally good and the variety of the good things spoke louder than words of Mrs. Jowett's ability as a housewife.

[Though unintentionally, the above report did not appear in last week's issue, and we now take the opportunity of making good the oversight.—Ed.]

Ben Anderson, called at the Toric office recently and stated it as his intention to commence supplying the surrounding towns with fish as soon as the season opens.

Three hundred dollars is being spent improving the road to deep water at the Landing.

A dance will be given at the Prospectors Exchange at the Landing, by Thos. Grahame, on Thursday next.

Noah Abramamson and F. T. Atby returned from Revelstoke on Tuesday last.

Chas. Fleming returned to Revelstoke on Monday.

Miss Lay returned from the Springs last Saturday.

Mrs. King left to-day on route

## TROUT LAKE'S PROGRESS

### CONDITIONS WHICH ARE FOES TO DEVELOPMENT.

Will Have to be Eliminated from the Programme of Progress for Next Season. Prices for Prospects Excessive.

In the evolution of this district from a wilderness into a thriving progressive mining camp, the year has played a most important part. In fact, the present prosperity of this place can almost be dated from the early spring of 1897, although previous years have been instrumental in laying the foundation for the towns which have sprung up in this part of the Kootenay. And now that we have entered in earnest on the new year, it would be well to review, briefly, past progress and consider those things which have a tendency to retard the march of this part of the country toward its goal of prosperity.

Probably one of the most principal factors in exerting a sinister influence on the country is the small amount of improvement that has been done in contraction to the number of claims that have been staked and the number of seasons they have been worked. Another, and a very important one is lack of adequate transportation facilities. Again, and as has been the case, principally, this year, that a great number of the most promising prospects have been tied up by Jim Crow capitalism. And lastly, and if anything the most important, is the exorbitant prices that have been asked for mere prospects, admittedly A. No. 1 surface showings, still prospects.

The first two of these may be considered together, for they stand in close relation to each other of cause and effect. A great deal of work would have been done on claims located, and with fine surface showings, had it not been for the extreme difficulty of getting the necessary tools to the claim. A person passing through this country and looking at the dense growth of forest with its growth of tangled underbrush will readily believe with the truth of this assertion.

This lack of trails and roads on these properties very difficult access and the work of getting supplies to them one of the most hardships. Combined with this was the conviction, that even a good body of ore exposed,

proposition, knowing all the preliminary expenses which would have to be incurred before the prospect would be in position to yield returns on their investment. Then too, it must be confessed, that greed had considerable to do with retarding improvement operations. Men would start out in the spring claimless and in the fall would be owners or part owners in a dozen or more. To a poor man the chances of giving even half of these claims a fair show was out of the question. And if he had fair showings on all of them; which one to do the most work on became a matter difficult to decide. The result was that only a small amount of work was done on each and the value of the property to the owner left in as pleasant a state of uncertainty as when it was staked. These conditions have altered considerably, however, and with the number of trunk and branch trails which have been constructed and the further improvements in this line projected, this year ought to end with a substantial number of mines on the shipping list, and a large number of prospects well on the way.

The next thing to be considered is the effect the Jim Crow capitalist has on a mining country. This gentleman is invariably a bane to the country he operates in. He is irresponsible, and usually has barely enough money to pay his hotel expenses. But while poor in this world's goods, he is rich in gall. He approaches a prospector, and after giving him a nice talk, finally prevails on him to let him have an option on his property, sometimes going so far as to take a bond on it. He pays so much down, and as far as the prospector and the country is concerned, that claim is a dead letter. For his gall also prompts him to ask a figure, from the bona fide capitalist or company to whom he is endeavoring to dispose of the property, so high that an agreement can never be arrived at. When the next payment on the bond becomes due, the property is thrown back on the hands of the prospector in precisely the same condition, as far as development is concerned, in which it was when bonded. And the owner is left to console himself with the reflection that another year has been lost to him.

If, in bonding these properties, a clause were put in the agreement binding this alleged capitalist or moneyed company to do a certain amount of development within a reasonable period, there would be fewer properties tied up and lying idle, and the number of these

amount of harm these fellows can do. Every property they get hold of and throw up, while not impairing the intrinsic value of that property, hurts the country in which it is located, for the reason that outside capital does not always stop to inquire whether the previous bondors were good men or frauds. And where a country has acquired the reputation of having its best properties thrown back on its hands, presumably worthless, that country is bound to suffer severely from neglect, due to the extreme timidity of capital brought about by this condition of things.

Last of all comes the vexed question of price for prospects. If we are to be strictly honest, we must admit that there is much truth in the contention of investors that the prices asked, in the majority of cases, is too high. Or, more properly, that the percentage down is placed at an excessive figure. No matter how rich the surface showing is, it does not justify the price asked for some of the properties in this district. The owners of these claims forget, that no matter how clever the expert is, or how well versed in his business he may be, he can, nevertheless, see no further into the hill than we can. He has only precedent to go by, and very often different countries develop different conditions, and for which a new set of rules will have to be made. Recognizing this fact then he should, even if he does ask a high figure, make the terms of the bond such, that it will justify an investor taking all these chances. For instance, instead of the stereotyped 10 per cent down, if he were to ask a modest payment, sufficient to cover the expense he has been to, and draw up the bond looking more towards future development than present gain, he would in a great number of cases be money in pocket, and he would at the same time give the person or persons who have a bond on his property the opportunity of eliminating, to a great extent, the elements of chance which surround his mining venture and in this manner double the possibilities of the bond being taken up and himself enriched thereby. He is taking few chances and if the bond is thrown up after the property has been thoroughly prospected, he is spared a large amount of future expense and has been paid for his trouble into the bargain.

The work on the hill, for the I.O.F., at Arrowhead has been commenced. It will be a good one

## WE POSSESS THE GOLD

### FURTHER RETURNS FROM OUR PLACERS.

Lardeau Creek Amply Proved to be Rich in the Yellow Metal. Great Possibilities for a Strong Company.

On Tuesday last Archie McGillivray, who is interested in the lease on the claim adjoining that of Messrs. Brown, Culkeen & Co., brought down to Trout Lake City 6 ounces of gold, the results of a cleanup of a little over two yards of gravel. These boys have got their claim in pretty good shape and are likely to make a pretty good thing of it.

On Saturday last Messrs. Hughes, Gainer, and Campbell, who had been up at the workings reported that, while there, a single pan of dirt gave the very satisfactory returns of \$11. This is the best yet panned, and it is evident that as the work is pushed ahead and approach made to bedrock, the dirt is getting richer. Here are some of the returns made from single pans: \$1, \$1.25, \$2, \$3, \$7.10, and \$11.

Some of the properties further up the creek are turning out well. The one owned by Messrs. Nix, Verschoyle and Bourke, near Ten Mile, is claimed by them to be a very rich proposition. They state, after thoroughly prospecting the ground, that a hundred yards square of it and of an average depth of two feet, will range from 5 cents to \$2 to the pan in gold.

About a mile above them and close to Ten Mile, is another pretty fair property, owned by Messrs. Cague, Alhgren and Ellen. While prospecting the ground they panned out a fraction over two ounces of gold. They have dammed the creek and have cut a ditch from thence, by means of which they are going to try to get out some of the gold they know is there.

There is but very little doubt but that before very long a company of sufficient strength will be formed to take over the properties on this creek and work them on a scale that will do justice to them, and there is not the least shadow of a doubt but that they will be richly repaid for the money they expend. When men in this primitive manner can take out gold to the extent they are doing, what would a good plant with the proper appliances do? There is no lack of ground and as regards its richness there cannot be the least

### MINES AND MINING.

#### Reclaimed from Tunnel, Shaft and Dump.

Thursday last Messrs. John... and Lindgren, arrived at Lake City from Canyon where they have been working the past three months. It was a most harassing one to be made entirely on... From them were some facts concerning the... on that creek, also the... of their development opera...

groups, the Columbia and... comprise a total of ten... On these properties the... averages 171 ounces silver and... cent lead. Considerable... has been done on the Lotten... consists of an incline shaft... to a depth of 82 feet. The... were highly satisfactory... some very fine samples of ore... galena, iron, and yellow... were obtained. A crosscut... driven from the bottom of... shaft and the width and rich... vein determined. Owing to... vein having straightened up... as left at a considerable dis... from the bottom of the shaft... it is expected when the cross... is completed, that a chute of... ore will be encountered.

On the Columbia an incline shaft... on sunk to a depth of 56... and shows up very well. The... is about 6 feet wide in a ledge... feet, and carries a high grade... galena ore. It is the intention... the owners to continue working... claims, and they hope short... to have a showing of ore suffic... to place them on the shipping...

very far from these claims... situated the Pedro, Black Jack... Grand Solo. The ledge is a... well defined one and, exposed... places on the surface, gives a... of from 10 to 20 inches of... plentifully mixed with gray... upper which assays 166 ounces... silver to the ton. It is propos... to commence work on these... properties just as soon as the snow... off the ground.

The above properties are all... situated at the head of the south... of Canyon creek about ten... miles from the lake. Five men... have been working there since the... middle of October and they state if... things turn out well that they will... use a greater force to work as... soon as the season opens up. The... trail leading to these properties is... badly in need of fixing, and cer... tainly their efforts to bring this... section of the Trout Lake

The recent shipment of ore from the Silver Cup, the Toric is informed on good authority, has been the richest treated in the Everett smelter for a year past. The ore run in the neighborhood of \$70 in gold aside from the silver returns which were also exceptionally high. As work is being pushed along rapidly it is expected that a further shipment of 200 tons will be made in a few weeks. Already some 150 tons are lying at the Landing, and between the mine and Eight Mile over 200 tons more are sacked and awaiting the attention of the freighters. The Cup is making a splendid record this season, and has turned out already 500 tons of high grade ore. Six animals are at work rwhiding the ore down to Eight Mile.

#### His Head Blown Off

Alex. Munro brought down the news, to-day, of the death of little Danny Morrison. His death was undoubtedly due to the premature explosion of a charge of giant powder. The top of his head was blown almost completely off and death must have been instantaneous. It is not known when the accident occurred, but it is supposed that it happened 8 or 9 days ago, as the snow from the cabin to the tunnel was fresh and untrodden. His body was found yesterday afternoon by his partner, a Swede by the name of Cedarstaff. When found the body was lying near the face of the tunnel, and after assistance had been summoned and the soundings examined, it was concluded by the men present that the explosion which had resulted in his death was occasioned by striking the rap while removing the powder from a miss-hole. The coroner was notified by wire and the body covered up with blankets pending his arrival on the scene of the accident.

There was little surprise occasioned on receipt of the news of his death, for he had been repeatedly warned that his method of handling powder was too careless and that it might result fatally for him some day. Jimmy Conroy, who had been working with him up till two weeks ago, expressed with him and begged him to be more careful but it was all to no purpose. Danny will be greatly missed for with all his human failings he possessed as warm a heart as ever beat in a human breast.

Great are the preparations going on for the ball to be given by the I. O. E. on Monday next.

### THE NEW REGULATIONS.

#### Laws Governing the Washing of Gold in the Klondike

Brief reference has been made to the fact that the revised regulations governing the issue of leases to dredge for mineral in the beds of rivers in the Yukon district has been issued. "Every alternate ten claims," it is stated, "shall be reserved for the government of Canada. That is to say, when a claim is located the discoverer's claim and nine additional claims adjoining each other and numbered consecutively will be open for registration. Then the next ten claims of 250 feet each will be reserved for the Government and so on. The alternate group of claims reserved for the crown shall be disposed of in such a manner as may be decided by the Minister of the Interior." The penalty for trespassing upon a crown claim is the cancellation of the entry such trespasser may have obtained, whether by original entry or by purchase for a mining claim, and the refusal by the recorder to record any other claim for such person, and in addition to this penalty the Mounted Police upon requisition from the mining recorder shall take necessary steps to eject the trespasser. The royalty provisions are contained in clauses 30 and 31 which provide that the royalty must be paid at a banking office to be established by the Government of Canada, or to the Gold Commissioner, or to any mining recorder authorized by him. If not so paid it shall be collected by customs officials, or police officers when the miner passes the boundary of the district. Default in payment of such royalty if continued for ten days after notice has been posted on the claim, shall be followed by cancellation of the claim. This penalty is also to be enforced against any person who attempts to withhold any part of this royalty by making false statements of the amount taken out. No miners shall receive a grant of more than one mining claim in a mining district, but the same miner may also hold a hill claim in connection with a creek, gulch or river claim. Any free miner may sell, mortgage or dispose of his claim provided that the transaction be registered with the recorder and a fee of \$2 paid. A claim shall be deemed to be abandoned and open to occupation by another person when it shall have remained unworked for 72 hours or three consecutive days unless sickness or other reasonable cause be

### GAZETTE NOTICES.

Wm. Graham McMyynn, of Midwry, has been appointed Deputy clerk of the peace for the county of Yale, and Dr. Stanley Smith, of Grand Forks has been appointed coroner for the Grand Forks division of Yale district.

Notices are given of applications to be made for five private bills at the coming session of the legislature. One of these is to incorporate a company to run a tunnel through Red Mountain, in Trail creek mining division, from a point on the Columbia river between the town of Trail and Murphy creek to a point at or near the California mineral claim, with the right to mine. Messrs. Daly & Hamilton are solicitors for the applicants. John Elliot, as solicitor for the applicants, gives notice of a private bill to incorporate a railway company to build from a point near Nelson to Six Mile creek and thence to the divide between Leman and Springer creeks, in the Sleean country. Another proposed railway is that given notice of by Messrs. Wilson & Senkler. It is to run from a point at or near Albert Canyon, then up the valley of the north fork of the McMillan river to the headwaters of Downie creek and by way of the Columbia to Revelstoke. There are also two more tunnel companies of which notice is given. One of these, of which I. W. Moffat gives notice, is the Kootenay Tunnel Co., which it is proposed to incorporate for the purpose of buying, constructing leasing or operating tunnels for mining purposes. The other is to be applied for by Robertson & Robertson, and is for operations of the same kind in the vicinity of Rossland.

Certificates of incorporation have been granted to the following new companies: British Columbia Oil Co., Ltd., capital \$10,000 with head office at Vancouver; Forfarshire Mines, Limited, capital stock \$20,000, head office at Vancouver; Vancouver Power Co., Ltd., capital stock \$75,000, head office at Victoria; the Old Fellows' Building and Investment Co., Ltd., capital \$20,000, with headquarters at Nelson.

B. R. Warden, who served in the capacity of engineer to the Horne Payne Co. last summer arrived in Trout Lake City from Vancouver last night.

Alex. Munro leaves tomorrow

## MINING NOTES.

## Occurrences in Tunnel Shaft and Pumps.

A strike of some 14 inches of fine ore was made in the Free Coinage a few days ago. Development work has been going on on this property, which adjoins the Silver Cup, for some months past and almost every day for the last two weeks it was expected that the ore chute would be encountered. The indications were unusually strong last week and it occasioned little surprise in town when Mr. Munroe reported yesterday that they were breaking into the chute. The ore appears to be very rich and is composed of a mixture of gray copper and iron. It is expected that the present width of the lead will increase as the drift is pushed into the ore body.

There has been no doubt expressed by anyone in the district, but that a rich strike would be made in the Coinage providing only development operations would be pushed far enough, and it was with feelings of satisfaction that the news of the strike was received in Trout Lake City. This property with the Silver Cup and Sunshine will make up a group of shipping mines that will increase the output of the district about twelve what it is at the present time. There is little doubt but that now the ore body has been encountered in the Free Coinage, the work will be pushed along with greater industry than ever, and everything done to place this fine property on a solid shipping basis before snow flies next year.

## THE OTTAWA.

The Ottawa mineral claim is situated on the south fork of Lardeau creek, about a mile and a half from the Silver Cup in a south westerly direction. It is a contact zone of lime and slate and yields very high assays, in fact outside the best ore of the best one of the best mines in the Skeena and the Arlington and Meteor mines, low in the Skeena lake, there hardly any better grade of ore found in the vicinity than the chlorides and iron ores of the Ottawa claim.

An average assay gave a return of 100 ounces silver, \$33 in gold, 10 per cent copper, and 45 per cent lead per ton. Picked specimens go from 1,200 to 5,000 ounces silver per ton. This claim is favorably located for economical working. It has good ground for millings and an abundance of

clear of snow at an early date in the spring. This claim is owned by Henry Schultz and Jack McGregor and it is their intention to do considerable development work in the spring in order to make some trial shipments of the ore. Extensions of this claim are held by Thos. Taylor, H. J. Stewart, and J. E. Jowett.

## LONE STAR DEAL.

On Monday last a deal was made by which Ed. Crockett disposed of the Lone Star claim to J. A. Magee for \$1,500 cash. This property is a very fine one and is located on Lexington creek, a tributary of Fish creek, in the Lardeau district. Work will be commenced on this claim just as soon as the season opens. Mr. Crockett left on Tuesday for a trip into the Cassiar country.

## MOUNTAIN VIEW GROUP.

J. Comerford, who has been down in the Skeena since last fall, arrived in Trout Lake City last week. He and his brother intend doing a large amount of work on their two claims, the Mountain View and Blue Jay, as soon as the snow will permit. With regard to these claims he informed the Tonic that the lead was some 15 feet in width and extended plainly in sight for a distance of over 1800 feet, from the surface of which good ore samples could be struck for the entire length of the exposed body. From 9 to 12 inches of clean ore is exposed and, he says, the balance is good heavy concentrating ore. This property, which was located late in September last, is situated at the head of Silver Tip creek and is in the great lime dike. A trail is built as far as the Big Five Group and it is confidently expected that it will be extended as far as the summit as soon as the snow leaves. This will make this property easy of access from any one of the centres of supply in the district.

## THE THICKLA.

Situated about 2 1/2 miles from Trout Lake City, on Mineral creek, is the Thickla claim, owned by Chas. Dillie. He says that this property is a valuable one, and has had assays from rock taken from the cropings which gave an average of 76 ounces silver \$6 per cent lead and \$1 in gold. He also owns the Mobile, on Humphries creek, which empties into Trout Lake about a mile from the town, from which some very good ore samples have been

## THE TESLIN LAND GRANT.

## A Number of Features Differing From Other Grants.

The land grant, be it remembered, though it may prove a very valuable concession to the contractors, keeps out of the country no permanent settlers, nor does it impose any burden or yoke upon posterity. These are the evils of the ordinary land grant, and from these evils this land grant is free. Take, for example, the E. & N. land grant of some 2,000,000 acres (backed by \$750,000 in gold cash). There may not be much gold in it, but there certainly is coal; and it is free of taxation for ever, whereas the Yukon grant is free for ten years only. Compare the two feature by feature. The acreage per mile is just about the same; in the Yukon grant there is no cash subsidy; the E. & N. received \$750,000. The Yukon grantees must pay a royalty on minerals; the E. & N. has paid none. The Government controls rates on the Yukon road; no one controls the E. & N.. The value of the Yukon grant is an unknown quantity, and, once exploited, it is worthless, the E. & N. grant takes in some of the most valuable lands on Vancouver Island, and its value increases as time goes on—it pays to hold it for speculation. The Yukon grant becomes taxable in ten years; it is written in the bond that the E. & N. grant shall be free of taxation for ever. The Yukon grant (as already said) keeps out no permanent settlers, imposes no burden on posterity; districts within the scope of the E. & N. grant return less revenue to-day than they did in 1891.

## Road Improvement.

On Saturday last the Gold Commissioner, Mr. Sibbald, paid Trout Lake City a visit. His trip into the district was in connection with the work of clearing the wagon road of all overhanging trees. He was directed by the Government to let the undertaking by contract, the same to be tendered for in sections of one mile each. Notices were posted up in Trout Lake City, Ferguson, Thomsons Landing, and Comaplix, with a copy of the specifications annexed. The specifications call, briefly, for the clearing away of all overhanging trees on the north side of the road, and on the south side for a distance of 20 feet, also all trees overhanging the road outside of that line. The tenders must all

be given by telegraph to the successful tenderers. The specifications call for the completion of the contract by April 15th.

The warmest thanks of the district are due Mr. Sibbald for the promptitude in which he responded to the appeal of the Trades Committee, on behalf of the people of this district to have immediate steps taken to remedy the present condition of the roads by removing one of the principal causes. It was due to his promptness that appropriation was secured immediately, for otherwise had he waited the usual course of events, we could not have received a cent until after the estimates were brought down and which would mean a delay of weeks probably months before anything could be done. He had, however, just received a sum of money sufficient for the work and he wrote without without loss of time, for permission to use it for this purpose and his subsequent actions prove how successfully.

The Trades Committee banqueted Mr. Sibbald on Saturday evening, and on Sunday morning he left on his return to Revelstoke.

## Will be Built Here.

A very strong belief has been gaining ground lately that Magee and Green were not serious when they talked of putting a steamboat on the lake this spring. It was at one time considered an assured thing that the S. S. Lardeau would be moved in and launched in Trout Lake, but that scheme had to be abandoned and as nothing further was said, by Mr. Magee, of his future intentions, it was presumed that the project had been given up entirely. It now transpires that far from giving up the scheme Mr. Magee had only been awaiting an answer from a ship carpenter formerly in his employ, before making the final arrangements for having the boat immediately constructed. He assured one of our citizens most emphatically, yesterday, that he intended commencing the construction of a steamboat as soon as possible and stated that it would be launched by the time the season opened up.

Jack Knowles has returned to Trout Lake. Jack's many friends are glad to see him back.

The Misses Jowett and Lay, Mesdames Taylor and Schmoek, accompanied by Alex. Gainer paid a visit to the placer mines on Lardeau creek this week.

Duncan McLeman left for Arrowhead this week. He will be engaged on the I.O.F. building

MINING NOTES.

Occurrences in Tunnel Shaft and Dump.

The Holy Moses Group consists of four claims named the Holy Moses, W. & K., Pilot Knob, and Able Knobber, and is owned by the Lardeau Mining and Development Co., of Revelstoke, B. C. It is situated on the well-known Lorne Ledge, about eight miles from Trout Lake City and four miles from Ferguson. There is no communication by wagon road from both these points to Johnson's Landing and there is a good trail over the last four miles to the property. The lead is shown as a contact vein lying between lime and talcose schist, the lime and schist both being shown showing for a distance of ten miles. There are also other parallel ledges one of which measures from 30 to 40 feet width. Several hundred dollars have been expended on the preparation and a tunnel run in on the ledge for a distance of about 50 feet with a crosscut at the end, exposing twenty feet of a ledge heavily mineralized. This ledge is about 55 feet wide with a heavy capping, the main drive being quartz well mineralized and showing several stringers of clear lime from 1/2 inch to 8 in width. The crosscut runs almost entirely through carbonates. Several assays have been made resulting as follows: Silver 79.5 ounces, 50 per cent lead and 57 per cent copper; Silver 80 ounces, silver 129.7 ounces, 68.9 per cent lead, and 2.9 per cent copper; Silver 67.6 ounces, 67 per cent lead and 4.7 per cent copper. The last mentioned was taken from a general assay of the property. The Company owning the properties is registered at Vancouver, B. C., under the laws of British Columbia, the date of registration being August 26th, 1897. No stock has been placed on the market the original owners being the sole shareholders. The properties are well supplied with timber and water and are amongst the most promising in the Lardeau district.

The Expedition Abandoned.

The War department at Washington has decided to abandon the expedition for the relief of miners in the Klondike country because no conclusion has been reached and no necessity exists for it. Secretary Alger has written a letter to Senator Hawley, chair-

department's position and asking Congress to take action by joint resolution authorizing the department to dispose of the supplies purchased for the expedition, including reindeer which had just arrived from Norway and to abandon the projected journey. In his letter Secretary Alger says the conditions on the Yukon have changed so as to render the expedition unnecessary and General Miles and General Morrison both agree with him. He is also advised to the same effect by the Canadian Minister of the Interior. Later advices than those received last December when the expedition was decided upon indicate, he says that miners are in no danger of suffering and thinks the great crowds of prospectors going over the Dyea Pass will carry sufficient provisions to divide with miners in need of assistance. General Alger expressed the opinion that the reindeer can be sold at a price sufficient to reimburse the government for their cost. He says he has been offered \$100 each for 100 of them. This amount is about the cost price.

NORTH FORK WAGON ROAD.

Editor Trout Lake Tonic.

Sir: I think if we open up a discussion in your columns respecting the wagon road, just now petitioning for, we and the powers that be, might be a good deal more satisfied than if it goes unchallenged.

Before I commence to write about the wagon-road I beg to state that I am an interested party in that section of the district, therefore no one can accuse me of prejudice, spite, or anything but acting for the general good of the community.

The petition spoken of above is for an appropriation of \$10,000 to build a wagon-road from Ferguson Forks to Horn's old camp on the north fork of Lardeau creek. With regard to the amount I will not say a word, but I should like to know if the petitioners have any decisive knowledge of any mines or claims opening, or likely to be opened, and become shippers of ore for the year 1898? Can petitioners show sufficient proof that any mines will be at work during the time above mentioned to satisfy the Gold Commissioner that it is requisite? Will the Government grant the amount asked, and the appropriation already gone forward, as per account in your paper, from another source? If not, which is of the most benefit to the district, five miles of wagon road which may not even

district, giving the present inaccessible places with good claims a chance to get out as valuable ore as any found on the north fork of Lardeau creek, and supplies in by pack animals. This, in my mind is worthy of lots of consideration. We hear on every hand that this a good year to get appropriations as the government is nibbling for votes. This may be so but I ask again will the government grant us \$20,000 for roads and trails this year? The above demand is just exactly what is necessary with the new demand. We are anxious to see money expended on roads and trails, for the district will pay for it, but can we rely on getting the above sum? Is a wagon-road up the north fork of Lardeau creek as necessary just now as a continuation of the wagon-road from Eight Mile on the south fork to Ten Mile and Gainer creek? When we look at the position of the two points; Gainer creek with its present producers of rich ores have been developed and proved rich, whilst the north fork is still in embryo. I should be delighted to see both points opened if it were possible this summer, but is it possible? If not, which is the most important to the district as a whole? I dare not trespass much further this week. Mr. Editor, or you may deny me space. The object of this letter is to try and get the views of those interested and those who are not, the pros and cons for the points most beneficial to the district as a whole, by sinking for the time our individual wants and building up on a firm base the points actually necessary we shall in the long run be helping ourselves. With the growth of a place all will reciprocate. More later. Yours truly,

THOS. R. DAVY.

A Slide's Victim.

A snow slide occurred on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock on the sleigh road to the Comstock mine, four miles east of Silverton. A messenger was sent to town, and about 100 men turned out with shovels, as it was reported that three men were buried. Southworth and J. Harvy were taken out with slight injuries, but when the body of William Lade was discovered life was extinct. Lade was 22 years old and came from Elmsdale, N. S. He has two brothers at Silverton, and was interested with them in valuable mining property in that district. The unfortunate young man was one of the Lade brothers who made the rich gold mine on the south fork of Lardeau

LOCAL GOSSIP.

Occurrences of Interest in and About the District.

Sam Sutherland leaves to-day for a trip to Vancouver. He will be gone for a period of three weeks.

Mrs. A. G. Barnes left on Tuesday evening last for trip to the coast. Her stay will probably be some months in duration.

The work of ice cutting and ice-packing is going merrily on, and already the hotels have laid in their summer's supply. E. Blaine is doing the cutting and Fred Allward has charge of the packing.

Billy Kiernan who was out to the Springs for a few days last week, returned on Monday. He reports that Mr. Magee has concluded the purchase of the machinery for the steamer to be built in Trout Lake City this spring.

Messrs. F. Johnston, Fred Campbell and Wm. Johnston have left for the Bad Shot mine. It is their intention to recommence development operations on this property.

Claim holders are beginning to bestir themselves and quite a number are preparing for to pursue active operations on their properties just as soon as the season will have become sufficiently advanced.

The fire brigade received their first summons this afternoon. A fire in the store of E. Pope was the cause. Fortunately a few buckets of water was all that was necessary to extinguish it. The boys made commendable time in getting to the scene of action.

J. D. Sibbald is expected in this week. His visit will be in connection with the work to be done on the wagon road.

Considerable talk of organizing a football team is going the rounds of the young people in town. It is to be hoped that something will be done in this line or some other towards the end of supplying a good healthy amusement for the summer months.

R. W. Gibbs, who is interested in the St. Elmo and Bannockburn claims, returned today from Three Forks. He will commence work on his properties just as soon as the season will permit.

Miss Anna O'Brien paid Ferguson a visit on Friday last.

Report has it that Thos. Wilson who has a branch store here, left Trail recently for the Klondike, taking with him a large supply of merchandise.

Noah Abrahamson is spending