

# Kootenay Mining Standard

## An illustrated journal 1899

Ymir is one of the most promising camps in the Kootenays. It was originally known as Quartz Creek-a name which was subsequently changed to that of its first great mine, the Ymir. Quartz Creek had long been known to old prospectors, but the in-accessibility of the district seriously retarded its growth. With the advent of the railway a decided change for the better took place. For a time a regular "boom" was on, and when it burst things got very dull. However, business is picking up again, and the camp is steadily growing with the development of the mines. Townsite difficulties prevented the more rapid building up of the place, but nevertheless there are some creditable structures there today, and a good foundation has been laid for what will doubtless be a big town, and that at no distant date.

The Ymir mine, owned and operated by the London & British Columbia Gold Fields Ltd., is practically the property to which the town owes its existence, although it is by no means the only great mine there. It was, however, the first to demonstrate the richness of the mineral deposits of the district. At the mine there is a 40-stamp mill - the largest in the country - in operation. Last month about 3,000 tons of ore was crushed and some 40 tons of crude material and 250 tons of concentrates shipped to the smelter at Nelson. During the preceding month 40 stamps dropping for 17 days crushed 1,450 tons, yielding 690 ounces - estimated value, \$8,300; gross estimated value of concentrates, \$3,000. Some 6,000 or 7,000 tons of ore are on the dump, and an immense quantity is blocked out. Extensive development work has been accomplished, revealing two very distinct chutes of high grade ore. An aerial tramway connects the mill with the mine. On the outer ore chute the shaft is down 500 feet. It is intended to sink it 150 feet more, and then run a cross-cut tunnel, the mouth of which will be only 500 feet from

the mill. A gravity tramway will then connect the mill with the mine. The mill is turning out gold bricks and concentrates with agreeable regularity, and will continue to do so.

The Dundee is a mine which has done much to establish the good



Miner Office, Ymir  
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reputation of the camp. It is a concentrating proposition, developed by numerous drifts and a shaft which is down over 250 feet. A 50-ton concentrator was erected last winter. Everything was in splendid working order when unfortunately a fire broke out, destroying the buildings and part of the machinery. But all has been put in shape again, and the shipping of concentrates has been resumed.

The Porto Rico has a 10-stamp mill in operation, which is kept busy. Everything is looking well at the mine. It is the intention to drive a fourth tunnel, so as to give sufficient stoping ground to keep the mill going.

At the Wilcox they are drifting on the ledge in two places and sinking a shaft. All work is now being done with the view to more thoroughly developing the property and as soon as this is accomplished a mill will be erected.

The Gold Reef Mining & Milling Co. Ltd, are operating the Rainy Day mineral claims on Wild Horse Creek, about eight miles from Ymir. The property is traversed its full length by two parallel quartz veins the shaft on one of which is to be continued to a depth of at least 150

feet, to prove size and dip. Both veins will be developed by adit tunnels from the east side of the mountain, which is very steep, rising to an elevation of nearly 2,000 feet above Wild Horse Creek. The ore averages \$16 to the ton, and it is calculated that \$8 rock would pay well.

There is great activity on Porcupine Creek. On the Big Patch the shaft is down some 15 feet, and ore at the bottom has been found to assay \$32.50. Outward and visible signs are most encouraging.

The Blackcock has been taken in hand by a strong company, whose intention it is to push work. A shipment of 20 tons, recently treated at the Northport Smelter, gave returns of \$43.50 per ton. At the Rio Grande the tunnel is in 115 feet, and in good ore. They are drifting on a rich vein.

The Free Silver group, consisting of five claims, is a property from which much is expected. A fifty foot tunnel has been driven cross-cutting the lead. Recent assays give 78 per

The Iroquis group consists of five claims and is located on Hidden Creek, about five miles from Ymir.



Merchants Bank of Halifax  
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A good deal of work has been done, including an 80 foot shaft. "Good ore and lots of it" is the latest news from the camp. Adjoining the Big Horn is the Empress group. So far as work has gone it is very encouraging.

The New Brunswick Consolidated Gold Mining Co. Ltd. own three full claims on Wild Horse Creek, about one and a half miles from Ymir - the New Brunswick, Deadwood and Florence. They

have a continuous quartz ledge of from 10 to 12 feet wide, yielding assays from \$5 at the surface to \$51 in the 300 foot tunnel. It is thought that the Tennessee vein passes into the New Brunswick.

The Tamarac is owned and operated by the Kenneth Mining & Development Co. Some ten months ago the present owners took the property in hand and since then it has been worked almost continuously. At an early stage of the operations there was a shipment of seven tons of ore made. This was treated at the Hall Mines Smelter, and gave returns of \$11 per ton.

Since then considerable work has been done with the result that a large body of ore has been located and of

a higher grade. A shaft has been sunk 232 feet, from which one drift is run in a northerly direction 172 feet, and another southward, which will come out on to the surface. The output is largely fee milling. At present the necessary machinery is in operation to develop the property, but it is the intention of the management to put in a mill and a tramway. There are dozens of other properties being developed in Ymir.



Dundee Mine, Ymir  
Photo Standard Publishing Company

cent lead, \$5 in gold, 38 oz. silver, and two per cent copper.

The Big Horn group of claims is being worked by the Simcoe Mining & Development Co. and with good results. A 20 foot shaft reveals a good body of ore which assays as high as \$52 a ton, but a number of pan tests have been made which go to show the ore is pretty fee milling and can be worked to advantage with a stamp mill and concentrator.

On the Nevada some good strikes have recently been made. A bed of rich ore, four feet in width, has been stripped for a considerable distance. It is claimed that there is 2,000 tons of ore in sight.

The Laurel, adjoining the Nebraska on Bear Creek, has a tunnel in some 35 feet, in good ore which assays \$18.

### ASSAYING

Gold, Silver or Lead	\$1.00
Copper	\$1.50
Gold, Silver	\$1.50
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