

NOTES OF THE NORTHWEST.

In a recent letter to the *Colonist* a correspondent gives the following facts about mining in Alaska: Juneau City is situated on a bay of the same name, and on a plateau which rises gradually from the water and extends back to the foot of precipitous mountains almost perpendicularly some three or four thousand feet high. Opposite is Douglas Island, famous for its large deposits of gold-bearing quartz. On one of these ledges is situated the largest, or one of the largest, quartz mills in the world (120 stamps), fully equipped with the latest and most improved machinery. The ledge, some 600 feet in width, lies above the mill, and about 1,000 feet from it a shaft from the top to the level of the tramway, not far from the edge of the ledge, receives the ore which is mined from the top of the ledge, and is carried on a substantial tramway to the top or fourth story of the mill, where it is crushed and fed to the stamps by machinery. This vast mill will crush over 350 tons of ore per day, and only requires the attendance of twenty-five men on each shift. The enterprising projector and part owner of this justly celebrated stamp mill, Mr. Treadwell, is at present in very poor health. When I visited the mill and mines the other day he informed me that the output of golden bricks had steadily increased from the start in July, and can be safely put down at \$100,000 per month. The chlorination works are not yet in satisfactory working order, but as soon as they are the output will be largely increased. There is but little doubt that there will be two or more stamp mills erected at once on the same ledge, as there are several other claims on the same lode which are said to be equally rich and extensive as the Treadwell claim. Senator Jones and other capitalists are here from San Francisco inspecting these mines, and it is expected that several other mills will shortly be started. The outlook is very bright for Alaska, with its mild climate and immense gold-bearing quartz veins. There were several gardens and truck patches started around Juneau this year, and turnips, beets, lettuce, potatoes and other vegetables, as fine as you would wish to see, are raised in abundance, and myriads (that's the only word that will express it) of fish abound in every bay or creek. The timber of this part of Alaska is rather inferior, principally hemlock and spruce, but enough for all purposes. To return to Juneau. It has about 600 inhabitants. There are eight stores of dry goods and groceries, two drug stores, three tin shops, two shoemakers, two tailors, one blacksmith shop, fifteen saloons, or places where beer, whiskey and other liquors are sold, and one brewery. The placer mines have been fairly prosperous this year. There are of the citizens of Juneau over fifty miners who have been out prospecting, most of them upon the tributaries of the Yukon, who have not returned yet, but are expected early next month. Many parties have returned from short trips of two or three months, and bring in fine specimens of gold, silver and copper, and one party from up the coast returned lately from a visit to a mine of mica, on the coast some ninety miles above here, with some fine specimens of this valuable mineral. There is no doubt whatever that Alaska is rich in mineral resources, and that its development has now assumed a tangible shape.

There was considerable alarm felt in British Columbia when it was announced that the road from Kamloops to Port Moody would not be operated until May. The Government has not yet accepted the line from the contractor, and the latter declined to operate it without a bonus of \$500,000. This left the people of the Province in a sad plight. Counting upon the services of the railroad, the interior merchants had not laid in the custom-

ary quantity of supplies for the winter, nor had sufficient beef cattle been brought from the ranges to the coast. A beef famine seemed imminent in Victoria, while the shutting off of supplies from the interior threatened the most harmful results, approaching in places even to starvation. After considerable negotiation arrangements have been made with the contractor to run a train semi-weekly, and the publication of this has relieved the anxiety of the merchants. About the 1st of May the road will be opened for through traffic from Montreal to Coal Harbor.

One of the mines contributing to the prosperity of Helena is the Gloster, situated thirty miles west of the city. The works consist of the mill of sixty stamps, hoisting works, assay office, blacksmith shop, stables, office, charcoal storehouse containing 20,000 bushels, boarding house and a gravity tramway one-half mile long. The mill is supplied with power by an 18x42 Corliss engine, and the hoisting works by a pair of 16x60 engines, recently put in at an expense of \$75,000. The mine is opened by a three-compartment shaft to a depth of 400 feet, and four levels have been run about 900 feet each, the vein averaging ten feet in width. There is enough ore in sight above the 400-foot level to supply the mill 140 tons per day for a year and a half, and explorations below that level show a continuous body of ore fourteen feet wide for the next 100 feet. The ore averages about \$32, of which the mill saves 60 per cent. The product is about \$80,000 monthly and the expenses \$30,000.

Two capitalists and experienced meat packers have been investigating the question of the shipment of dressed meat from Montana in refrigerator cars. The Marquis de Mores has demonstrated its feasibility, but these gentlemen wish to embark in it on a larger scale. It is their idea to handle 20,000 cattle during the five months of fat beef, and to do this will require an investment of about \$250,000. They have not announced any definite plans nor the selection of any particular location, though Miles City seems to have made a favorable impression. Montana is now sending about 100,000 cattle to market annually, and if 30,000 (20,000 at Miles City and 10,000 at Medora) of these can be slaughtered near the ranges stockmen will experience much relief in conducting their business. Industries for the utilization of the refuse matter will naturally follow in the train of such a great slaughtering business, benefiting the Territory by their presence.

The index of *Babyhood's* first year, which accompanies its twelfth number (November), comprises nearly four hundred titles, and gives an idea of the subjects covered by this novel mother's companion in its first volume. It would be difficult to crowd into 390 pages a greater variety of information and suggestion touching the rearing of children and the regimen of the nursery. The November number contains an article which, if read and thoroughly digested by half the mothers of recent arrivals in the human family, could not fail to add materially to their mutual comfort, to say nothing of vanquishing, in advance, the dyspepsia with which many babies are destined to find themselves handicapped a few years hence. The writer is Dr. L. E. Holt, visiting physician to the New York Infant Asylum, and he heads his article with the simple and suggestive word "Colic." No. 18 Spruce street, New York. \$1.50 a year.

A short time since word was received that good placer diggings had been found in the foothills of the Cascades, east of Toledo, W. T. A correspondent writes: "The find of gold in the hills east of Toledo is so far successful that the party of men, among them experienced