

BOOLBOONDA.

DEVELOPMENT ON THE FIELD.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

Sunday.

We have enjoyed a liberal amount of the general rains, and just now the verdure presents a pleasing aspect.

Despite the temporary closing of operations at the New Moonta mine, by the Queensland Copper Company, we have no unemployed. Sometimes these respites prove a blessing in disguise, as more often than not the dismissed employees betake themselves on a thorough prospecting expedition of the locality, and on occasions some valuable discoveries have resulted as a consequence. Whether we are to be favoured in the present instance is at the present a matter to be decided. But some of the claims here are to be re-worked by practical men, who will assuredly persevere in their search for mineral wealth.

Part of the New Moonta Mine has been taken by a party of tributors, who are very sanguine as to their prospects. Meantime the company are pushing on certain development work, which, when completed, will lead to a much more economical working of the mine's products, and furnish more healthful conditions to the employees. It is confidently expected that work generally will be resumed in a few months.

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Messrs. H. Killer, S. Killer, and A. Tolstoi, are preparing to put in some very important work at the Federation mine on this field. This claim has been worked for a number of years, and the value of the ore won has been consistently excellent. The party are going to sink the shaft a further distance of some fifty feet. To expedite this purpose, they have erected a whim, by the way—a substantial structure—and intend pursuing prospecting work with full vigour.

Messrs. Bertram and Albert Bawden, with J. Blaik and W. Dornan, have commenced work on the Boolboonda lode. Although they have been working but three weeks, they have some very nice ore at grass, and expect a parcel ready for treatment well before Xmas. In the New Year, they contemplate new development work, which apparently is fully warranted. I hope to deal with this more fully at a future date.

Messrs. Leather, at the Mt. Rose, are obtaining some magnificent ore. The last parcel despatched to the Mt. Perry works, gave no less a return of over 30 per cent of copper. Similar stone is now being raised, and I am informed the mine is looking well. It is worth mentioning this lode runs through the ground of the Mt. Madeline properties.

Work at the Pansy mine is being strenuously prosecuted. The new shoot of ore has been struck in two

shot of ore has been struck in two more stopes, and it is hoped that this ore will continue through ground as yet untried. Should this result, the output will be materially augmented. A good quality stone is now at the ore paddock, and of a character not previously met with at this mine. Other stone has been of the ordinary sulphide. This, however, is black oxide, usually a richer mineral.

Dame rumour is busy with the news that lode matter has been met with at one of the tunnels now being driven on the Mt. Madeline properties. Some little excitement prevails, but no authoritative news is available. Therefore this is given with all reserve. I sincerely hope that such is the case.

Several other lodes are being re-worked, which also will claim attention as opportunity affords.

The Local Option taken on Saturday last at the New Moonta township provided a great amount of speculation as to the result. Only a few of the inhabitants at present have the privilege of being ratepayers. These are mostly residents of some years' sojourn. Very few of the people ~~whom this question vitally affects~~ had a voice in the matter. As one of our new arrivals remarked to me, he felt like a Uitlander, this expressed with biting sarcasm. One can sympathise with these people, who possessing no homes here see other well housed persons deciding the question

housed persons deciding the question as to whether licensed accommodation shall be provided for them or not. However, the pro-hotel won the day, the result being 18 against 16.

I notice someone comments on the selfishness apparent in this district. This is a topic I have studiously avoided, although I must confess it is an all-prevailing fault, and the writer has certainly the truth on his side. Of course it is only fair to limit this to a few individuals. We have our progressivists also, but they have an uphill fight.

One sympathises with Mr. Gibson, who in establishing a building well in advance of others in the neighbourhood, in point of structure, has met with bitter hostility to his plans of catering for an expected increase of population, and travellers, from the people before stated.

I hope to see this building licensed ere long, a result, which must be comforting to those who are compelled to exist in tents, through the heavy rains and winds we have been having. We may take the downfall of the Chinese as an example of what lack of initiative may bring a nation to, and act accordingly.

Progress, Boolboonda, Mr. James Jose is building a nice residence, on high blocks, opposite Mr. Gibson's. This gentleman was fortunate to secure one of the best sites. Mr. Fitzgerald (surveyor) is at present at

sure one of the best sites. Mr. Fitzgerald (surveyor) is at present at Boolboonda, and after the various areas applied for have been surveyed, I expect to see an impetus given to building.
