

"The Tramway Company expect to start at once to lay a track from the smelter to the wharf. The first work will be at the landing where the switches are to be put. The company has arranged with the townsite company for the right of way through town, and grading into town has commenced.

"The town of Trail is growing fast. There are seven hotels, eight stores and about 1,000 people. School commenced with an attendance of forty pupils."

When asked regarding the movements of the Canadian Pacific, Mr. Topping said:

"I believe that it is the intention of the Canadian Pacific to build from Robson to Trail, following the Columbia River, and, also, that next year the Kootenay and Columbia will be connected with the Nakusp and Slocan. If my information is correct it will give us a through line from Revelstoke, and it is not improbable that the line will be extended through the country to Boundary Creek and Okanagan Lake.

"There are now 2,500 tons of Le Roi ore at the smelter, and 350 tons of War Eagle product on the dock waiting for the steamboat to take it away.

"All of the ore teams stopped work on account of the roads being too much worn down; they will start up again as soon as it freezes. One carload of coke for the smelter has arrived and another is expected in a few days."

Mr. Topping located at Trail in July, 1890, and says he made the location for the smelter, although he had to wait over five years, it finally came. He believes that within a year he will have the best town in West Kootenay.

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John H. Moyle, a mining expert, is in Seattle, having gone down there direct from Trout Lake in this Province. "Trout Lake Mines," said Mr. Moyle to a reporter, "are new, no real development work having been done. Men went in there a year or two ago, prospected and made the locations, and have only done assessment work sufficient to hold their claims. The product is mostly galena, very little gold being known, although some assays have gone as high as \$9 a ton, and for that matter the richness of the galena deposits is not known to any extent, as the work has not sufficiently progressed. The location is most remarkable. Above the snow line of the Selkirks, and I suppose fully 10,000 feet above the sea, are the Trout Lake Mines. The snow is now seven or eight feet deep, stopping operations for the winter. To reach there the route is by steamer on Arrow Lake and an arm of it, which extends toward Thompson's Landing, on Trout Lake, the distance is covered by good wagon road. A branch of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, 30 miles in length, is being built from Revelstoke to Arrow Lake, and is now almost complete. The terminus at the lake will be called Arrow Head. There is some talk of a road extending on down the narrow arm, through an easy pass to Trout Lake, and thence to the Slocan district. Such a route would open a rich country, developing hundreds of mines. As it is now we must rawhide the ore for a distance of seven miles to the wagon road; it is then hauled to Arrow Lake and forwarded by steamer. The mines are owned by capitalists of Montana, Spokane, and other places. The one owned by the Nowells is called the Great Northern. There are numerous others, one called the Silver Cup, and another the C. P. R., the latter extending back 20 miles from the lake. The Slocan is a very rich country, and just now there is every sign of activity. This is the busiest season. The town of Sandon, at the terminus of the Kaslo and Slocan Railroad, is very lively. Business places are open day

and night. At four o'clock in the morning as much goods are sold as at any other time. It is peopled by miners of the class which are free with their earnings, and, of course, that is largely a movable, floating population. I should imagine that 1,000 or more people have located there within the few months of the town's existence. It is in the very heart of the Slocan district making it a fine business centre. I have heard a great deal lately about the Boundary District. It will have a rush in the spring. Most of the mineral seems to be beyond the British border, but I am informed that the Colville reservation has been prospected, and claims are likely to be located there in the spring.

Alive and Active. Despite its Detractors.

The Lillooet, Fraser River, and Cariboo Gold Fields, Limited, has recently acquired further valuable mining properties in the neighborhood of the town of Lillooet. These the company proposes to develop on an extensive scale in early spring. The same organization has also acquired an option on the Maple Leaf and Oak Mines, which adjoin the famous Lanark near Illicilliwaet. Some twelve men are already engaged in developing the company's group of mines at this point, and it is intended to construct, in connection therewith, an aerial tramway, and to put up a 100-ton concentrator this spring. There are 30,000 tons of ore in sight on the properties in the Lanark group, and this mass of ore can be concentrated and shipped just as soon as the tramway and reducing works are built.

The Gold Fields, Limited, has also acquired a number of claims in the gold and copper bearing district of Boundary Creek, and these, with other properties near Rossland, will in due course be thoroughly prospected.

Work is actively being pushed on the Abbot group of claims in the Lardeau District, and in the coming summer this enterprising organization of capitalists will extend their operations to Cariboo. There gold has been mined for thirty-five years, but these wonderful treasure vaults are only now in course of being opened by strong financial companies like the Gold Fields.

Another Valuable Find.

One of the various resources of East Kootenay waiting for development is the petroleum found in the Flathead Valley in the southeastern portion of this district. This is a section of country but little known, and is separated from the remainder of the district by a high range of mountains. The natural outlet of the valley is down the Flathead River into Montana, and the nearest railroad is the Great Northern. Some years ago attention was called to this section through the finding of crude oil in the possession of some Stony Indians, who annually hunted in this valley, and they were induced to show some miners where they obtained the oil, which they (the Indians) were in the habit of using as a medicine for complaints of all kinds. The surface indications are good, and two different qualities of oil have been obtained. On Kishneena Creek, a short distance north of the international boundary line, a black oil, similar to the Pennsylvania and Ohio oils, is found. But on Sage Creek, some eight miles north, there is found an oil that is nearly pure, of a light yellow color, which will burn in a lamp as it comes from the ground. Close by, there is natural gas escaping from the bedrock, which burns freely on ignition. Some of this oil sent to the Geological Museum at Ottawa, caused considerable excitement and comment, and was pronounced a fraud on account of its purity. Dr. Selwyn, head of the department, made a special trip to the valley, and was surprised to find the oil genuine, and also that this