

ed the Hudson's Bay Co.'s farm. Several seams, differing in thickness from a few inches to one of over 2 ft., separated by layers of sandstone, were encountered. A drift was run from the bottom of the shaft a certain distance, from which some 6 or 7 tons of first-class coal were obtained. A great improvement was noticed in the distribution and increased number of seams exposed, on those found in the Guerin tunnel. These favourable changes have led to the belief that further east a body will be found that will prove sufficiently valuable to work. The drift looks so promising that the property has been bonded by Mr. Morrish, of London, England, one of the directors of the company which owns the Iron Mask mine, who intends to sink another shaft at a point more than a quarter of a mile east of the present site.

About two months ago much excitement was caused by the discovery of a seam of coal near the summit of a mountain, about 5 miles north of Enderby. The coal is said to be of excellent quality and is stated to be 4 ft. thick, so far as could be observed, but may prove to be of greater extent, as it is partly covered by slides from the mountain. Parties interested, I am told, have applied for the purchase of 3,000 acres of land in the vicinity. A tunnel will be run to ascertain the extent of the deposit. Should expectations be realised a strong company will be formed to operate the mine on a large scale.

Development was continued on several groups of claims in the vicinity of Nicola. Work on Ten-mile creek strengthens the conviction that there will be a prosperous camp in that locality when sufficient capital shall have been obtained to further open up the promising showings there.

*Ashcroft Mining Division.*—From the report of Mr. J. W. Burr, mining recorder, it is learned that placer mining on the Fraser and Thompson rivers was not carried on as extensively in 1904 as formerly, consequently the quantity of gold mined in this way was not near the total of previous years. The value of the gold taken out during the year was about \$24,000. (Mr. Burr's comments on gold dredging operations are printed on another page.)

In Highland valley, some ledges of copper-gold ore have been discovered, and the year 1905 will see development work carried on there. The mine-owners are very anxious to see the wagon road into the valley completed as early as possible in the spring, so as to enable them to get in machinery and provisions and bring out the ore which is accumulating on the dumps. The ore is distributed all through the mountains on each side of the valley.

*Yale Mining Division.*—Mr. Wm. Dodd, mining recorder, reported that only Chinese did placer mining in 1904, with but unimportant results. Although material was on the bank ready for building the proposed wing dam, the late winter level of the Fraser river, which is the extreme low water period, was rather higher than usual, and did not permit of the resumption of work on the Saw-mill riffle, above Hill's bar, owned by the local Castle-Revesbeck syndicate, which promised so well during the very brief working sea-

son in the abnormally low water of 1903. The Yale Hydraulic Mining Co. completed its pipe-line of about a mile, and was enabled to hydraulic for about a month.

During the past 12 months the Mount Baker & Yale Mining Co. has completed its 10-stamp mill, and the International Gold Mining Co. its 3-stamp mill, triple-discharge battery. The former company has 8 men employed, and the latter about 20. Both companies are engaged in completing their surface plant, equipment and buildings, and in getting out timbers for their respective saw-mills. The stamps have been in operation for the past 3 months.

(Note.—Owing to the abnormally dry season, which prevented the working of the creeks and benches, the yield of gold has been limited to \$3,000, the smallest yearly return yet made. Individual placer mining on the bars of the Fraser in this division is a thing of the past.)

*Similkameen Mining Division.*—The mining recorder, Mr. Hugh Hunter, reported that the year 1904 was most favourable for placer mining in this division, but little was done, the Chinese population having dwindled down to a very few old hands. At the mouth of Bear creek 3 Chinamen took out some gold and platinum, and were reported to have obtained one nugget valued at \$120. At different times in past years some valuable nuggets have been found in that vicinity. A few Chinese were mining on Granite creek, but they did not reap the golden harvest they expected.

Not much development work was done on mineral claims; chiefly assessment work. The Boulder Mining Co., Ltd., extended its working tunnel 100 ft. and is now applying for crown grants for all its holdings. On Bear creek Messrs. Chas. F. Law and W. H. Armstrong have done considerable work on the St. George and St. Lawrence claims, and have exposed a vein 5 ft. wide, carrying high-grade gold ore. This vein has been traced through several claims. On Roche river and in Summit camp only assessment work has been done. It is reported that the Sunset and 10 adjoining mineral claims have been bonded, and that 5 per cent of the purchase price has been paid to the owners. On Copper and Kennedy mountains assessment work has been done on the claims not crown-granted. On Granite creek, where a ledge of free-milling ore was found 2 years ago, the owner of the property has done much work stripping the ledge and has started a tunnel.

In Aspen Grove camp assessment work has been done on all but a few of the claims located in previous years, and new locations have been made. Several groups of claims have been crown-granted and others are being developed.

Mr. S. F. Parrish has sent us a copy of the special Southwestern Nevada number of the *Salt Lake Mining Review*, published at Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A. We appreciate this thoughtful courtesy, but regret that we cannot spare space for a summary of the contents of so interesting an illustrated issue.