

Syndicate. Further information relative to the syndicate and its property follows.

There are numerous mining properties scattered along the mainland coast and islands north to the northern boundary of British Columbia. Some of these are ore shippers on a small scale. A few of them give promise of becoming mines.

THE UNITED VERDE GROUP.

PROBABLY the most important discovery of a large surface showing of mineral made on the Coast since the big outcroppings of ore at what is now the Britannia mine were found six or seven years ago, was that made late in the year on Fitzsimmons Creek in a locality distant about 40 miles from the head of Howe Sound. As yet the property has not been prospected to any considerable extent, but the immense showings of ore, an idea of which may be obtained from the accompanying illustration, which shows part of the big outcropping of mineralised rock, indicate the importance of this discovery.

At first two claims were located, viz., the St. Verde and the Bonanza, but later four more were added to the group, which now contains six claims.

From a brief report on the group the following has been taken: "These claims are situated about five miles from the proposed line of the Yukon Northern railway, which is to be built north from Vancouver to connect with the Grand Trunk Pacific. These properties are so situated that it will hardly be practicable to derive any profits from them until after transportation shall have been provided. They can, however, be developed and a good showing made at very little cost. Short cross-cut tunnels can be driven in different places along the ledge, which would prove the ore body and give an idea of the quantity of ore in sight. The samples assayed were taken from different parts of the property, and show the character of the ore."

The samples referred to gave assay returns of from \$2 to \$24.80 in gold, a little silver, and from 1.5 to 9 per cent copper. The five samples were assayed by Messrs. C. M. Bryant & Co., of Vancouver, and gave gross values ranging up to \$44 per ton. It is stated that so far as yet known the values occur in a heavily mineralised schist, similar to that found on several well-known mining properties on the Coast. The enormous exposures of ore are cliff-like in appearance. An examination of the illustration will show the relative sizes of the part photographed and reproduced herewith, and the man standing on the top of the mass of rock.

Upon being convinced of the great prospective value of the property, Mr. H. T. Ceperley, of Vancouver, secured it, and afterwards interested a number of Vancouver and New York men of means in it. A syndicate, named the United Verde Syndicate, Ltd., has been organised, with head office in New York, and Mr. Ceperley is its agent in British Columbia. The syndicate has provided funds for sufficient de-

velopment work to demonstrate to some extent the quantity of ore easily accessible. It is probable that after enough work shall have been done the claims will be Crown-granted and thereafter be held awaiting the provision of railway transportation facilities.

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

ON VANCOUVER ISLAND the year's mining has not been a favourable one. The coal mines together show a decreased tonnage for 1905, caused by the seven months' strike at the Western Fuel Co.'s collieries at Nanaimo. The Wellington Coal Co.'s Extension and Comox collieries show a combined increase in net output, but this was but a small set-off against the decrease caused by the cessation of production at Nanaimo. The coal measures of Vancouver Island were the subject of examination and enquiry on the part of Dr. Poole, of Nova Scotia, whom the Geological Survey Department sent out to gather and compile information on this subject.

The non-success attending the long-continued yet, thus far fruitless exploration for ore at depth in the Tye gold-copper mine, Mt. Sicker, Vancouver Island, is a matter of general regret among many on the Island. It seems singular that with so large and valuable a body of ore at and above the 200-ft. level no shoot of ore of importance has been found below that level. The output of the mine for the year was about 32,000 tons, the cash returns from which were \$97,000. The Vancouver Island Mining & Development Co., which also owns mining property on Mt. Sicker, similarly has met with little success in its efforts to discover at depth ore bodies of considerable size. At Koksilah Mountain, 12 miles from Mt. Sicker, a Victoria syndicate, known as the King Solomon Mines, has opened up a large body of ore that carries excellent values in copper, with a little gold and silver, and a commencement has been made to ship ore to the Crofton smelter.

On the west coast of the Island the outlook for developments is regarded as being promising. The iron properties situated near Port Renfrew, have been bonded to responsible men, who are stated to have also secured the hematite claims at Quatsino, the latter by purchase. It is understood that they plan the establishment before long of reduction works at Port Renfrew. The mining properties on Alberni Canal and its tributaries have been disappointing, but there are on several of them good showings of mineral which lead mining men to think that before long quantities of ore that will give profitable returns to the mine owners will be shipped to the smelter from this section. At Trout Creek men have been employed in opening up what looks like making a good mine. Considerable assessment work has been done in Clayoquot district, and claims on several of the tributary creeks have been Crown-granted. On Kennedy Lake, Deer Creek and Bear Creek there are numbers of properties believed to be valuable, only