

HOW IT HAS GROWN.

The development of Trail Creek and the appreciation in the value of the Trail Creek mining property has proceeded by a series of well defined movements.

The first ripple of excitement occurred when Patrick Clark demonstrated that the War Eagle was a shipping mine during the winter of 94-95. Prospectors and business men began pouring into Rossland over the snow eager to take chances with the new camp.

The second wave was caused by the arrival of John M. Burke, Sam Silverman and Chas. S. Warren. These gentlemen had a large share in interesting the public of Spokane, Butte, Helena and Anaconda in Trail Creek. Numerous properties were bonded and companies formed, the chequered careers of every one of which it would take too long to trace.

One of these companies—the Great Western—passed largely into the hands of C. E. Barr, who hails from Illinois, but it is a most remarkable fact that while there have been isolated instances of capital coming in from a distance, the interest in Trail Creek has not been contagious except within well defined boundaries at particular times.

The next wave that struck Trail Creek was caused by the advent of A. E. Humphreys. He bonded the Monte Cristo, Iron Horse and Enterprise for \$65,000 a figure hitherto unheard of. He followed this up by bonding the Crown Point for \$75,000. He also attracted the attention of F. A. Henze to the prospects of Trail Creek. A deal was made with E. S. Topping, of Trail, a different combination acquired control of the Le Roi, a big contract was entered into with the Le Roi for ore, and sand began to fly on the foundations of the smelter.

This exhausted the resources of the year 1895. Many conservative men felt that the discoveries of pay ore in other prospects than the Le Roi, War Eagle and Josie, were not keeping pace with the external developments of the camp. It was known that most of the companies, operating some of them under mere options, were embarrassed for want of funds and lack of market for their stock. The Le Roi was beginning to pay good dividends, but most of the promising prospects were tied up—it might be said tangled up. A set back was inevitable, and a catastrophe was possible. During the autumn of 1895 Trail Creek passed through a crisis. As a matter of fact there was some unjustifiable inflation during 1895. Operators had bitten off more than their limited market could assimilate and bonds fell through in numbers while those that survived did so in a very battered and disfigured condition. Nothing but the extraordinary merit of the district and the basis of patient development in the Le Roi, Josie, Center Star and Cliff, on which it was founded, could have prevented a serious collapse.

Be it remembered that at this time the Iron Mask, Jumbo, Evening Star, Georgia, Great Western, Commander, Palo Alto, Homestake, Mayflower and Crown Point, not to mention a dozen more, were doubtful prospects. Things went along quietly and slowly till the beginning of 1896. But from February on, the growth has been wonderful, not only in the outside capital which has been attracted, but in the intrinsic merit of property shown up by development. The earliest in the field were Spokane people, and they have put their last dollar in Trail Creek. They are naturally proud of Trail Creek. Spokane men developed the Le Roi, War Eagle, Iron Mask, Jumbo and Cliff, and such capital as the little city could scrape together has gone into labor, steel and powder to develop our resources. The cordial relations of mutual respect existing between the people of Kootenay and the city of Spokane are worth a thousand treaties of arbitration and would that they could only be established between all sections of the two great branches of the English speaking race.

Spokane was rapidly followed by Vancouver, Victoria, Portland, Seattle and Tacoma, and for a while things were lively. But the amount of spare capital in the west is limited and the market soon began to show signs of depletion. With a few isolated exceptions, however, the holdings of Spokane and the coast cities are among the most valuable in the camp and will return many times over the original capital invested.

It is a far cry from Rossland to Toronto, yet Toron-

to has been the next center to take hold of Trail Creek property in bulk. The business men of Eastern Canada are so extremely cautious and conservative in their methods that this is probably the last place one would have expected any very marked enthusiasm to arise. And their indifference to West Kootenay as a whole, during its six years of existence as a mining country, has been most marked. However Eastern Canada is likely to recoup herself yet for the losses she has sustained through not investing earlier in the greatest mining section in North America. It may seem strange that the excitement over Trail Creek's vast deposits of precious ore should have jumped to Toronto, while centers like San Francisco, St. Louis, Chicago and New York have not been affected. But the explanation is simple. Awakened interest in the splendid opportunities for investment here has always been preceded by the presence in the camp of some active business man from the district who has never been long in being able to acquire something worth having to introduce at home. And the presence of one has brought brought another. Toronto is fortunate in having been represented here this summer by a contingent of active and wide awake men who knew good opportunities when they saw them.

If there is anything in this reasoning the next market opened up for our property in Trail Creek should be in London. Everything points that way now, and when the great bell of St. Paul's starts to booming all the others will chime in a lesser key.

THE GOLD MINING REVIVAL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Under the above head "The Mining Journal," of London, has the following.

British Columbia, as was expected in many well-informed quarters, has at length come definitely and decidedly to the front as a gold mining country. After a long period of unmerited neglect, the whole district has begun to resound with preparation, and every hill is covered with its knot of prospectors, anxious to be early in the race. Time was and not so very long ago when a sanguine pronouncement as to the future in store for British Columbia as a gold-producing country was met with a scornful incredulity; and one good friend of the field relates that when speaking before a London audience in 1893 upon the resources of the colony, he met with the rejoinder that "when Kootenay began to ship, London would listen to her, and English capital would flow to her assistance."

Kootenay has long since been shipping, and if one-tenth of the reports to hand from Western Canada are not inventions as it would be folly to suppose them to be—then there is a career before that country which might be envied by many a more widely advertised, but less intrinsically valuable, district. The sceptics have at last been silenced, and people generally are beginning to feel that a district which, like Kootenay, produced ore valued at £350,000 for the second three months of last year, at a time, moreover when it was by no means enjoying the full favor of the English capitalist, is rather to be exploited, than contemptuously rejected as unworthy of consideration.

In proportion as serious attempts are being made to get *en rapport* with the mineral contents of the country, the descriptions founded on prospecting and exploratory works are becoming more and more enthusiastic. Well tried districts, like Slocan and Trail in Kootenay itself, with the famous Le Roi mine as the premier enterprise, already famed for its actual achievements, and Cariboo, now justly celebrated for its placer mining, are, it is confidently stated, merely the elementary beginnings of an industry in a colony which abounds in minerals from border to border.

Scarcely a day passes now without a valuable addition being made to the discoveries hitherto chronicled in connection with the better known parts of British Columbia. Reports of these successive finds more often than not are accompanied with the tangible evidence of specimens of some extraordinary rich stone which have been dug out in more than one locality that was hitherto only half suspected of bearing gold. Nor is there any reason to suppose that the deposits thus brought to light are mere London-derry-like patches, phenomenal in character while

they last, but soon giving out when worked with method and energy. There are in fact, circumstances peculiar to the country which give quite a different complexion to the case. Ore at surface is not, in the majority of cases, found to equal anything like the ore found at depth. Some of the most successful and noteworthy workings which have been carried on in the country go to show that the ore steadily increases in value as depth is attained, and that is not only true of one particular district more especially of West Kootenay—but of the province at large. This was particularly the case with Trail Creek, where the ore definitely rises in grade the further it is attacked below the surface.

There is thus not much ground for the apprehension—even if other evidence of a no less convincing character were left out of account—that the revival in British Columbian mining has anything in common with those momentary flashes of prosperity which visit even the poorest and most disappointing of territories. Even in city circles, where sensations other than those affecting the rise and fall of well-established share markets are not wont to travel very quickly, or to assume large proportions, the movement in favor of British Columbian enterprises has been quick and decided. Kootenay is the theme of conversation in city offices, and the mark upon which mining engineers *in embryo* are beginning to bestow an interested attention. It is even said that the great Mr. Barnato has arranged for representation in the province, and where Mr. Barnato goes other people are sure to follow.

There are, it is said, a large number of British Columbian companies on the point of flotation. The colonists, then, may congratulate themselves upon the fact that the long-awaited time of mining revival in their midst has at last arrived, and no doubt they will do their best to make hay, in conjunction with the British investor, while the sun of industrial prosperity continues to shine. But a word of caution to those who are most prominently associated with mining in the provinces would not be out of place. The colonists have now, to a large extent, their future in their own hands. If any appreciable number of the reports coming to hand by every mail of rich discoveries and wide deposits are true, they can, by steady and sober development, ensure for British Columbia a permanent and honorable position among the best gold mining districts in the world. There is, however, another alternative which we hope will be carefully and rigorously avoided.

Everybody who has followed with attention the growth of industrial activity under the genial and expansive influence of general commercial prosperity and who has noted the inevitable reaction which takes place when the popular attitude becomes somewhat more confident, will have noted that the measure of reaction is invariably the measure of the senseless inflation which has marked the origin, the rise and progress of the boom, as it is called, which preceded. It is open to the Canadians to ward off anything like a severe reaction against the present phenomenal activity, by resolutely setting their faces against wild-cat schemes and the puffing which is necessary to make them marketable, by taking care that sober and experienced men are chosen to act as the mouth pieces of the colony, and by pursuing their mining operation in a steady and methodical manner, and in full concordance with the rules of the best mining practice.

ANOTHER PRODUCER.

Rossland will soon have another big dividend payer in the Columbia & Kootenay. It is only a week or two since the machinery was installed and work renewed. The tunnel is in solid ore which averages over \$50 in gold, and from which sample assays as high as \$118.00 have lately been obtained.

THE CAMBRIDGE A WINNER.

The strike on the Cambridge has opened up a local market for the treasury stock, and during the last day or two some blocks of stock have been sold in Rossland. Recent developments have made the stock too cheap and some of the first issue is likely to be taken off the market.