

some very valuable claims throughout this valley, and with the advent of a railway it is sure to become one of the best mining districts in British Columbia.

Some of the most promising mines in this district are the Big Chief, Dupont, Estella, Dibble, Burton, Kootenay King, Golden Fleece, Keystone, etc., while in the Windermere district are the Red Line, Delphine, Pretty Girl, Silver Tip, Paradise group, etc.

The construction of the Crow's Nest Pass road has tended to inspire with confidence those interested in these claims and during the last year a great deal of development work has been done, many claims which were only prospects a year ago having been developed into mines. Excepting in the immediate vicinity of Fort Steele, where gold is found, the principal ores of this valley are silver, lead and copper.

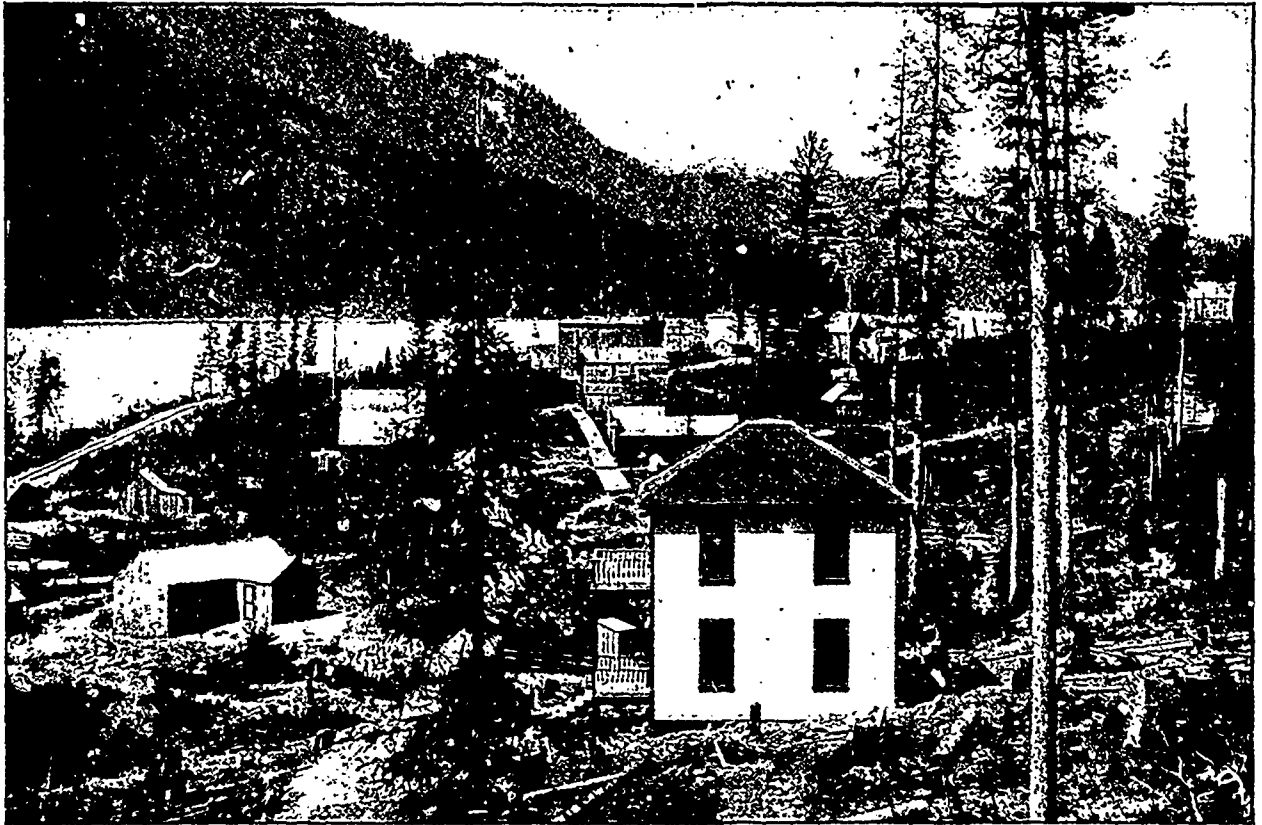
cuts. This group has been recently taken over by an English syndicate and it is the intention to develop it further to demonstrate its value. There is now a large amount of ore on the dump ready for shipment. Close to Fort Steele is the Wild Horse Creek where in the early 60's valuable placer gold discoveries were made which have been worked every year since with more or less success, and even now extensive placer mining is being done by the old methods, and a syndicate has put in an electric hydraulic plant, but this is not being operated at present. Those engaged in these washings are almost entirely Chinamen and it is a difficult matter therefore to find out just what amount is being recovered.

Throughout this valley also a considerable amount of farming is done, where irrigation is practicable.

With the construction of a railway

other color for that matter, as a large proportion of the buildings have not yet made the acquaintance of the painter. The building up of the town of Cranbrook may be said to have commenced in the spring of 1898, as it was not until then that people began to arrive in any numbers. New buildings were soon run up and G. H. Miner put in a stock of hardware to be followed a little later by other stores until now there are several dry goods stores, five general stores, a drug store, bakery, wholesale produce and liquor, besides six hotels and a number of restaurants and also a branch of the Bank of Commerce. During the last year \$75,000 worth of building was done, and an extensive system of sidewalks laid.

Cranbrook is in the centre of the mining districts of southeast Kootenay and while it has no large mines as yet immediately tributary to it,



Scene at Moyle, B.C.

A year ago an Ottawa and Montreal syndicate took hold of the Dupont claim and development work was at once commenced and a tunnel run in 137 feet. Assays have been taken which show \$30 to the ton. The Dupont will be equipped with compressor, concentrator and stamp mill.

The Big Chief is just across the gulch from the Dupont. This was also a prospect a year ago, but last summer a tunnel was run in and assays made averaging from \$20 to \$30 per ton, though picked specimens went as high as \$11,000 per ton. Machinery is to be installed in this mine shortly and the force of men largely increased.

The Estella is looked upon as the most prominent property in that section. A vast amount of development work has been done, consisting of 1,000 feet of tunnels, shafts and cross-

through this valley the residents of Fort Steele look forward with confidence to the future of their town.

Cranbrook.

Cranbrook, which is a town of about 1,200 inhabitants, is situated in the broad, level valley of the Kootenay River between the Rocky and Selkirk mountains. It is easy to see that this is a new town as the bright fresh appearance of new buildings is still to be seen in a large proportion of those here. We quote the following from a special number of the Cranbrook Herald of December last. "Two years ago this Christmas, Cranbrook consisted of the old Baker home, the Cranbrook hotel, a sawmill and in addition about 50 people and any amount of hope." The people living here do not appear to belong to the class who make a practice of "painting the town red" or any

it has a number of very good prospects and is in touch with the whole district from Moyle to Fort Steele. The most important mines tributary to this point are the Black Bear, the Negro, the Carrie Lee, the Mastodon, the Copper Crown and Excess, the Horse Shoe and the Pay Roll, which are all being worked and show prospects of becoming good producers in the near future.

Kimberley is the terminus of the branch road built from Cranbrook to the North Star mine. This is a new place which has not yet attained to much importance, but it should become a good business point, as it is within easy reach of the North Star and Sullivan mines, and other good claims.

Up to the present time the North Star is the only mine in this district that has shipped any quantity of ore and it has not shipped as much as it