

means of the Slocan river route, down which, as already stated, the C. P. R. proposes to build from Slocan Lake. At present those interested in all three places are enthusiastic about their prospects.

THE WEST KOOTENAY TOWNS.

Just now it is difficult to decide between the rival townsites, which are plentiful enough for choice, as to their various prospects. The country is in a budding condition, dependent largely upon ultimate settled railway routes and other factors which it is impossible to determine accurately. To the intending investor or those seeking for advice, the best thing to do, if possible, is to go and see for themselves. The trip in itself will amply repay anyone for the time and expense incurred, provided always he can afford it—the fishing, the scenery, the sports, the climate, are all most enticing, and apart from all material considerations, are very sure to make the Kootenay country a most popular resort.

POPULATION AND POLITICS.

There is a population of four or five thousand persons scattered up and down the districts described in the foregoing which is daily increasing.

A large proportion of the miners, prospectors and mining capitalists who have gone in are Americans, and a good sprinkling of the business men. The contiguity with the United States, that portion south of it as far as Mexico possessing extensive mining interests and a population of some millions more or less dependent on the mining industry, accounts for the inflow of American population, attracted as it has been by the rich mineral deposits disclosed. It is, therefore, only natural to find in Southern Kootenay an American sentiment and a desire for closer reciprocal relations with the United States, a feeling which to some extent is imparted to the British element. However, a majority of the business men and property owners are either Canadian or old country people and are gradually obtaining the ascendancy with a corresponding change in sentiment. The advent of the C.P.R. and the establishing of regular communication with the Canadian side has materially altered the commercial aspect, and at least four-fifths of the trade is with British Columbia and eastern Canada, and with the still more direct railway communication in the near future trade will be almost entirely carried on through Canadian channels. As the country is becoming known in the east and in Great Britain, Canadian and British capitalists are coming in more and more and daily records in the newspapers are being made of their

investments in mines and otherwise. While, however, THE COMMERCIAL is a Canadian paper, devoted to Canadian interests and upholding Canadian sentiment, there is not a word derogatory to be said of the Americans who have come in here. They have proved themselves to be an intelligent, moral and enterprising class of citizens, and to them is deserving a large share of credit for the progress in and development of West Kootenay, nor are they to be abused for their natural political and national leanings. There existed largely and still exists a feeling that Canadians were slow, unprogressive and altogether not the "men for Galway." They seemed to know little and care less for the district or the interests involved. This of course is a misapprehension of the true character of the people of the Dominion as a whole. Kootenay, besides, has been isolated up until the last year or two from the rest of the province and Canada. Canadians are not instinctively a mining people, as the Americans immediately south are, and hence did not so quickly recognize the value of the mining resources or appreciate the same, largely from a lack of knowledge and information respecting them. Americans, on the other hand, already interested in silver, lead and copper mines in a country of similar mineral formation and in proximity very naturally came through the Kootenay valley from the Cour d'Alene and other contiguous mines and became the pioneers: but it only requires a few years to demonstrate that the people of Canada and Great Britain are quite equal to the opportunities which the Kootenay country afford. Already they are taking a strong hold vigorously. In fact, when it comes to that, many of those who came in from the American side are Canadian born, and a very large element of the enterprising population of the whole U.S. Pacific coast is Canadian, and their progress has been remarkable.

LAST YEAR'S MINING RECORD.

The following is a statement of transactions for the year 1891 in West Kootenay government recording office:—

Revelstoke:	
Locations	73
Assessment certificates	25
Nelson:	
Locations	416
Assessment certificates	75
Transfers	251
Trail Creek:	
Locations	87
Assessment certificates	33
Transfers	47
Ainsworth:	
Locations	263
Assessment certificates	113
Transfers	170
Goat River: (no returns)	
Summary:	
Locations	930
Assessment certificates	246
Transfers	476

Remarking on the above the Gold Commissioner says: "Development work, in the sense of work to prove and not merely to hold the mine has not been lacking, though no mine in the district is, as yet, fully worked with adequate capital and labour invested in the hope of realizing dividends, but the offers made and high prices paid, or agreed to be paid, for promising prospects, together with the steady work undertaken by claim owners, on their own well known claims, in the Toad Mountain, Ainsworth, Trail, Goat River and Illecillewaet camps, indicate that there soon will be in the district mines worked systematically on a large scale, some of which, no doubt, will become dividend paying properties."

GOAT RIVER.

Considerable attention has been directed to the twenty or thirty mineral claims which have been located in the vicinity of Goat River and Duck Creek, tributaries to Kootenay River, in the Goat River district. The ore, so far, does not appear to be high grade, but is in sufficient quality to be regarded as promising. An American company promises to undertake development work on some of their claims in this locality during the ensuing season.—Government Report, 1891.)

ILLECILLEWAET.

"At Illecillewaet, the only continuous work is upon the Lanark claim, which is the property of the Lanark Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company. Their work, it is confidently expected, will be successful, and have the effect of aiding the progress of this valuable, well-placed camp, toward which attention is again directed. Several claims have been located along the upper waters of Fish Creek, above the Falls. Some of the prospectors who have been across the divide in the neighborhood of Trout Lake, express themselves in favorable terms as to the mineral appearance of parts of the country. It is a part of the Revelstoke division, which may repay further prospecting."—Government Report, 1891.

The Illecillewaet division is one of the most important of the whole Kootenay district, and geographically it has advantages in being easily tributary to the main line of the C. P. R. This group of mines, chiefly contained in the angle between the north and south branches of the Illecillewaet River, is in a very mountainous country. A large number of claims have been located.

Dr. Selwyn describes the mode of occurrence of the ores here as follows: "The argentiferous galena of Illecillewaet occurs chiefly in quartz veins,