

makes it desirable to all those who are looking for a more profitable investment for their money, or are seeking homes where competition is not so keen as it is in the overdone and overcrowded older communities of the east. Located as it is in the centre of the great Kaslo-Slocan mining country, and at a point which is the only natural outlet for the ores of its mines, Kaslo is destined to become, in the near future, the greatest milling and smelting point in the rocky mountain region. That this is not claiming too much, it is only necessary to establish its pre-eminence by describing in a brief way the mines in its vicinity, and which are tributary to it; its facilities for the shipment of either the raw ore, or the smelted and refined product; and its natural advantages as a smelting point.

Mineral was first discovered near Kaslo in the summer of 1890. This led eventually to the establishment of the fact that the territory lying between the Kootenay and Slocan Lakes was, in all probability, the richest country in silver-lead ore in the world. It is not the purpose in this article to attempt to give the history of the mines in the district, but simply to show what some of the prospects of '90 and '91 have become, despite the difficulties which had to be encountered and overcome. The greatest perplexity of the miner at the outset was happily overcome in October of last year, when the Kaslo & Slocan Railway completed its line to Sandon and Cody Creek, which are in the heart of the great Kaslo-Slocan mining country. Prior to the time of the completing of the road, the majority of the miners only occupied themselves in taking out the ore which was encountered in developing their properties. Now, with the difficulty of shipment obviated, it is confidently expected that the mines will all be worked to their greatest capacity. In describing the mines only a few general features and figures can be given of the most notable among them, as they are so numerous, that in an article of this kind it would be impossible to give anything like details.

The Slocan Star, at Sandon, about 30 miles from Kaslo, at the present terminus of the railroad, will ship this year 3,000 tons of selected ore, averaging in value 100 ounces in silver to the ton and 60 per cent. lead. It has just completed a concentrator, with all the latest improvements, with a capacity of 150 tons per day. The concentrator will put out this year at least 7,000 tons of concentrates, making a total output for the mine, this year, of 10,000 tons, averaging in value equal to the selected ore. The mine has a force of 40 men constantly at work. It is worked by four tunnels, aggregating 2,000 feet in length. It is stocked for \$500,000, and has already paid a dividend equal to 10 per cent. of its entire capital.

The Noble Five will ship this year 1,000 tons of ore averaging 60 to 150 ounces of silver, and 70 per cent. lead. Since the property has been opened up 2,000 tons of ore have been shipped. It is worked by tunnels, which aggregate a depth of 3,500 feet. It employs about 15 men steadily.

The Ruth is taking out 10 tons of ore daily, which averages 100 ounces in silver and 65 per cent. lead.

The Wellington will ship this year 1,000 tons of ore, averaging 160 ounces in silver.

The Last Chance will ship at least 500 tons of 200 ounce ore.

The American Boy, a prospect last year, has shipped 100 tons, 100 ounces in silver, 60 per cent. lead. It will be a large producer this year, under the increased facilities for shipping.

The Surprise has shipped this winter 300 tons, 250 ounces in silver, 60 per cent. lead, and will be a continuous producer.

The Deadman has about 1,200 feet of development,

and will ship this season 500 tons of 170 ounces in silver and 40 per cent. lead.

The Goodenough-Rico will ship this season 50 tons of high grade ore. A shipment of 20 tons from this mine last year netted the owners \$6,875.

The Rico commenced work last year in August, with a force of 40 men, and ran 6 tunnels, each of which has been extended 150 feet. They took out in this work 300 tons of ore, averaging 400 ounces of silver to the ton.

The Mountain Chief produced 160 tons of 100 ounce ore last year.

The Payne Group, 30 tons of an equal grade.

The Maid of Erin will complete a shipment of 500 tons of 100 ounce ore, by the end of March, this year.

The Washington is putting in a concentrator, and has 20,000 tons of crude ore on the dump, ready for treatment.

The Dardanelles shipped 100 tons of ore last year.

The Ajax will ship 100 tons this season; the Rambler, 50 tons; the Slocan Boy, 50 tons; the R. E. Lee, 50 tons; the Mountain Chief No. 2, 700 tons; the Lucky Jim, 200 tons; the Ivanhoe, 150 tons. All these ores will average 100 ounces in silver to the ton, and a large percentage in lead.

One hundred other properties could be enumerated which have been, and are, producing ore; and an almost innumerable number of prospects have a fine showing of ore, and a large number of these will be producing in the near future. As an evidence of this statement, is Whitewater, which last summer was only a prospect, is now shipping ore, and has a cash value of at least \$100,000. The veins are all of the true fissure character, and are nearly all worked by tunnels, thus making it a cheap camp to operate. Development has demonstrated the uniform richness and size, and the continuity of the veins. Already it is known that wagon roads will be constructed to the Ruth, Whitewater and Wellington mines this year; and tramways are contemplated from the Noble Five, Payne Group and Rico, to the Kaslo and Slocan Railway. The actual amount of ore exported to American smelters this year, to the present date—March 28th—from Kaslo, is 3,830 tons. No record is made of ore going to Pilot Bay and Nelson smelters, which would easily bring the aggregate up to considerably over 4,000 tons. In this description many of the important properties have, of necessity, been overlooked, as no list of the producing mines has ever been made. But all the mines named are tributary to Kaslo, which is their natural outlet. Another part of the district has been entirely omitted for want of statistics in regard to it. This part is the Lardo-Duncan country. The outlet for this latter named territory is down the Lardo and Duncan Rivers to the northern head of the Kootenay Lake, which brings it in easy reach of Kaslo. The ores of this district may be classed as dry, consisting as they do, principally, of copper, silver and gold. It is well established, however, that this part of the district is immensely rich in these ores, and the exploitation of the mines is only waiting till a better means of transportation of the ores down the river is effected. In a portion of the country adjacent to the Slocan Lake, and in the Whitewater and Lyle basins, the ores for the most part are also dry; and this dry ore belt, covering an extensive scope of country, extends within a few miles of Kaslo. Almost an unlimited amount of iron and lime ores for fluxing purposes are found convenient to the lake, or railway, within a short distance of the city. These can be mined and hauled at a small expense, and thus nature has provided almost every necessary adjunct for a successful smelting point here. These natural advantages will, no doubt, induce intelligent capital to put in a plant here at an early date.