

the fact that orders can be now more promptly filled and forwarded from this source, this advantage more than counterbalancing the customs duties that are imposed upon imports. Not only this, but much of the mining machinery manufactured in Eastern Canada, and now being extensively ordered, is being brought most of the way over American railroads to the point of entry, Northport. If our own centres of trade are to benefit by this growing business, strong efforts must be made to get these facilities for rapid and prompt delivery which, with customs dues, will more than give Canadian business concerns the advantage, as the fact should be realized that new and large markets are opening up in British Columbia. American business men are making strong efforts to secure this trade, and the current once set in, it will be difficult to deflect it into that channel most beneficial to the commercial interests of this country.

Bulletin No. 2 has been written during a few weeks examination of all the mines and many of the claims yet ranked as prospects, in the immediate vicinity of Rossland. This district has been constantly growing from a small number of claims located on the hill on which the now famous mines are working, until, as work has uncovered a system of parallel veins or leads, in many of which the indications of finding ore are excellent, this area now extends three or four miles east and west of this centre, and one to two miles north and south. To the west, and also to the east across the Columbia River, most favourable reports concerning the discoveries of ore similar to that of Rossland are being made by prospectors and others who have examined these new localities, and, if time will permit, some of these will be visited and described in the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines.

The discovery, during the last two or three years, of large bodies of high grade gold ores, in which dividend-paying mines are now being operated, is attracting the earnest attention of many mining men and capitalists of both America and Europe. The opening up of the large mines at Rossland that, notwithstanding many heavy disadvantages—rapidly being overcome, such as means and cost of transportation—have proved very remunerative, and, as more extensive exploratory work and greater depth are attained, promise permanency of large and profitable ore bodies, is stimulating more thorough prospecting not only around Rossland, but in many other localities in this district, with the result that other camps are quickly coming to the front as good prospects on being worked disclose ore of increasing value.

Many claims at many points in Trail Creek District are now being carefully examined and bonded or bought, which better means of access and egress, now projected or being completed, will render possible their being worked, and the principals or agents representing capital are investigating these new resources. The fact that men interested in the treatment of ores, or their transportation, on studying the conditions and possibilities now shown, have begun large undertakings, or are now planning them, is indicative that the future development of this part of the Province will be soon on an extensive scale, and of their confidence, based on experience, in the extent and value of its mineral wealth.

The consensus of opinion of many mining men who have studied the conditions and surface showings in this new camp at Rossland, is to the effect that few camps have ever shown so many favourable indications that warrant the belief that on further extensive, systematic exploration other shutes of gold ore will be uncovered. Prospecting has disclosed these many parallel veins, varying in width, when exposed, from an inch to several feet, and it is believed that many more ore shutes will be found when these most promising surface indications are thoroughly exploited, for it is quite improbable that the large shutes of rich ore that have been shown on the surface by denudation will be found to be the only ones.

This district has now reached that stage when persistent, plucky development work, sustained by ample capital, must be done to prove up these many veins and surface showings, but a sufficient amount of working capital is demanded, (a.) because much of the rock is very hard to mine, necessitating good machinery to make proper progress, (b.) considerable or even extensive development work must be done in the search for more pay shutes, (c.) while the more or less faulted nature of the ground, though not serious, will complicate this work. While the present mines were opened up with comparatively small capital by reason of the mines producing pay ore shortly after work was begun, or ore that was very profitable as soon as roads were built over which it could be sent to the smelters, still any enterprise that is now undertaken will require strong financial support, and already several powerful companies are at work.

The output from Rossland this year will not show the predicted increase over that of last year for several satisfactory reasons, although there is now, without doubt, much high grade ore in sight. In the first place better and cheaper means of transport for ore are being awaited, as the shipping mines are now in such a position that they can afford to hold back