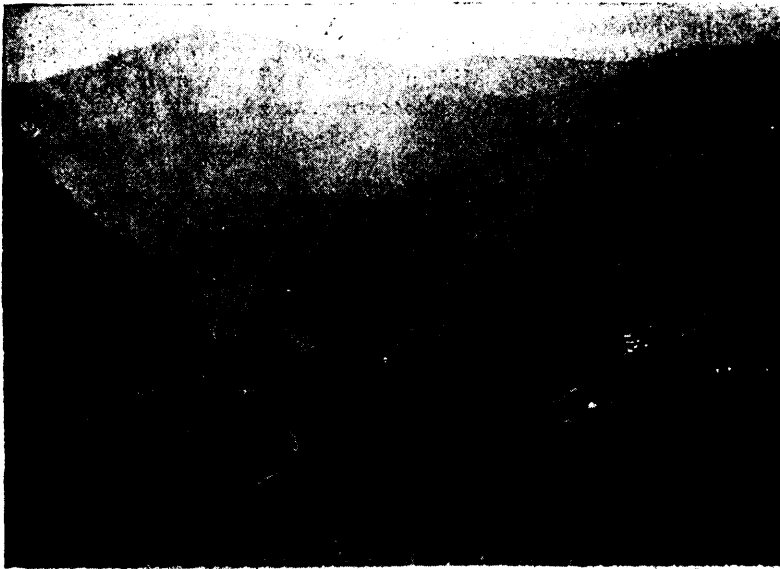


SOPHIE MOUNTAIN.

THERE are not many districts tributary to Rossland. Situated as Rossland is on a crown of mountain range, separated from other mountain ranges by difficult gorges, it is geographically destined to remain alone, just as it seems destined in other respects to remain a unique phenomenon among the gold producing areas of Canada. But, although this is the case there are many new promising districts which owe their first impetus and their



development in the mining energy which has its centre in Rossland. Of these, one of the most promising as it has hitherto been the only productive one, is the district of Sophie Mountain.

Since the district came into prominence there have been various explanations of how it came by its name, the most idiotic of these is that it was so called by Indians from its likeness to a sofa, and should be called "Sofa Mountain"; as if Indians were in the habit of lounging on sofas!!

The true explanation is very simple. The first claim located on Sophie Mountain was located by a prospector named Harry Hughes who, for reasons of a sentimental nature, called the claim "Sophie," and the mountain received its name in the same way as the Payne Mountain in the Slocan.

Our first illustration shows Sophie Mountain in a view taken from Red Mountain and certainly the long outline of the mountain well rounded and sloping to the confluence of Little Sheep Creek and Big

Sheep Creek might excuse some fanciful resemblance to a sofa.

Unfortunately for this fanciful derivation, and also for the rapid development of the mines on Sophie Mountain, they do not lie upon the eastern slope of the mountain which is visible from Rossland at all, but on the western slope where anything less like a sofa than the contour of the mountain could not well be conceived.

Few people, even in Rossland, discriminate between Big Sheep Creek and Little Sheep Creek, and this causes great confusion. But Little Sheep Creek is a pitiful little stream compared to the neighbour into which it finally finds its way. Big Sheep Creek is a magnificent mountain stream, rising almost to the dignity of a river, and boasting a very fine waterfall, the admiration of every traveller by the Red Mountain Railway, and full of vast possibilities as far as regards electric power. To understand the configuration of the country one must remember that the Columbia River, Dog Creek and Big Sheep Creek form a large four-sided figure, of which the Columbia River forms two sides by bending round almost at right angles. At the head of

Big Sheep Creek one is comparatively near Lower Arrow Lake. At the mouth one is away below Northport. The range separating Big and Little Sheep Creek is very high and very narrow, the lowest point being 1,000 feet above Rossland, and this was the main difficulty in the way of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway's going through Rossland, the impossibility of crossing the valley through which flows the waters of Big Sheep Creek.



1.—GENERAL VIEW OF SOPHIE MOUNTAIN FROM RED MOUNTAIN.
2.—SHEEP CREEK VALLEY.

Some idea of the valley may be had from the accompanying illustration taken from the dump of the Victory-Triumph mine. On a clear summer morning this valley stretching north and south with just the silver thread of the creek visible at the bottom, forms one of the sublimest pictures even in this country of magnificent scenery.

Sophie Mountain has rather a picturesque history. The old Dewdney trail crosses some distance north of its summit, and round a corral where the packers