

of about 50 miles, crossing the following streams which heading in the western portion of the main range of the Rockies flow in a south-westerly direction into the Kootenay River:—

The Kik-a-min, Sand Creek, Ahkuttuk, Bull River, Lost Creek, Horseshoe Cañon, Shingle Creek or Maus Creek, Wild Horse, Six-Mile, Tracey, Lewis, Walsh, Wasa and Sheep Creeks, on this belt where it crosses these streams and on the intervening ground numerous valuable discoveries of mineral have been made. Commencing about three miles north of Elk River, a mile from the proposed railway line, there is a well defined ledge about 8 feet in width, assaying 20 to 30 per cent. copper. Considerable development work has been done, a quantity of ore being on the dump ready for shipment. On Sand Creek three claims, 10 foot ledge, 10 per cent. copper, carrying silver and gold; on Bull River there are about eight or nine claims which show a good percentage of copper and prospect well in gold; on Lost Creek there is now the well-known Debble group, the ore is a gray copper, carrying gold and antimonial silver, the country rock being porphyritic slate and talcose schist; free gold quartz veins have also been found on this property. These claims have been developed and opened up, a tunnel has been run in for 400 feet, striking the main ledge at a depth of 300 feet, and cutting four other veins which crop out on the surface, each vein gaining in width as it goes down. It is a high grade ore, the general average being 150 ounces in silver, \$30 in gold and 12 per cent. copper. Down the creek, and close to where it enters the valley, there is a good showing of peacock copper ore. On Horseshoe Cañon there are several gold quartz properties, one being the Minnie Wells, on which there is a small vein of very rich gold-bearing quartz. Up Shingle or Maus Creek there are several claims. At the source of this creek, on the summit, about a mile from the Debble group, there is a 4½-foot ledge running through porphyritic diorite and slate, assaying about 30 ounces in silver and from \$5 to \$24 in gold. The Wild Horse properties having been described in former articles, it will be sufficient for our purpose just to state that besides the four or five hydraulic companies in active operation, there still remains quite a large amount of ground which can be worked to advantage. There are also numerous gold quartz claims on the creek and its various tributaries, some of which have been developed to quite a considerable extent, showing up large bodies of gold quartz. There are about fifty locations staked off in this vicinity, which comprises an area of country about seven miles up the creek and extending for a couple of miles up the branches on each side. On Six-Mile Creek there are large outcrops of copper and galena on which there has as yet been no development work done. On Tracey Creek, in a basin near its source, seven or eight claims have been staked out during the last year, and from present appearances they promise to develop into valuable mines. There are three ledges, one 10 feet wide, of copper oxide, assaying gold \$2.10, silver \$11 and copper 16 per cent.; the second 3-foot ledge of gray copper, 65 to 140 ounces in silver, 16 per cent. copper; the third, a 6-foot ledge of solid galena, low grade. From Lewis Creek through to Wasa Creek and on to Sheep Creek are numerous locations carrying gold, silver and copper, the principal being the Wasa and Mammoth, on Wasa Creek, which is just about being sold to a Victoria Company. There is a fine showing on this property, development work having been carried on

on these claims at intervals during the last few years. This mineral belt has not been traced any further north than Sheep Creek, where there is a decided change in the formation. Some distance up Sheep Creek there is a curious group of mineral springs down close to the bed of the creek; in fact they are overflowed during high water. The springs consist of sulphur and salt; the smell of sulphur can be detected for a couple of hundred yards before reaching the spot, and the springs are so close together that it is possible for a man to sit in one and put his hand in the other, the sulphur spring being hot while the salt spring is quite cold.

On the west side of the valley, about twenty-five miles from Fort Steele, on Mark Creek, a branch of the St. Mary's, is situated the now celebrated North Star group of mines, with its sister group, the Sullivan, in close proximity; there are between eighty and a hundred claims in these two groups, the silver lead belt line extending, as far as at present known, for a distance of about five miles north and south, with a width of about a couple of miles; Mark Creek running diagonally across the centre of it. At present, the North Star is practically the only ore producer of these groups, the company shipping ore all last season, and have eighteen men engaged for the winter in getting out carbonates for shipment in the spring. Teams will be busy all winter hauling to the landing on the river. This mine is well worth a visit, hundreds of feet of tunnelling and drifting having been done, running through solid bodies of ore; in fact, in all the workings there is nothing else in sight but silver lead ores, and no man knows or can guess at the extent or size of the deposit. This mineral belt is covered to a great extent with a glacial deposit in some places of unknown thickness, but, wherever the bed rock has been exposed to view, it has been found to be highly mineralized with galena and iron, and on some of the claims solid bodies of ore have been struck similar to the North Star, notably on the original locations in the Sullivan group; while the Midnight, Dean, All Over, Quantrell, Utopia, Stemwinder, Good Luck, Big Chief, Eureka and others have either ore in place, or very good indications of there being large bodies in the near vicinity. In fact, all the working and prospecting done on these two hills tends to show that in all probability this whole belt is just one immense silver lead deposit. All the way up the St. Mary's, on all its various branches right up to the summit, a distance of about sixty miles from Fort Steele, there are numerous outcrops of mineral. Right along close to the summit, with a width of three to four miles, and extending for a distance of thirty miles is a mineral belt containing copper, silver and gold, on which a year ago there were over seventy locations, and many more have been staked off during the last season; some of the claims assaying very high in silver, with a good percentage of gold and copper. On Hell's Roaring Creek, a large tributary of the St. Mary's from the south there is a ledge about 10 feet in width averaging from 4 to 8 feet solid mineral the ore being galena and gold. It is situated four miles up the creek from its mouth, and about thirty miles from Fort Steele, development work has been done to the extent of a tunnel seventy-five feet in length and a twenty-five-foot open cut following the lead; the formation of the country rock being porphyry and slate.

On Perry Creek, another branch of the St. Mary's which joins the main stream about fifteen miles west