

Mica in Big Bend.—Two syndicates—one of Calgary and the other of Revelstoke men—have secured mica-bearing claims at the head of the Big Bend, and good samples of mica have been obtained. This mica-bearing locality is a different one to that of Tete Jaune Cache district, farther north, concerning which news has occasionally been published in past years.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS.

Among many mineral claims on Moresby island of the Queen Charlotte group are some in the vicinity of Hockport, Jedway, and Collison bay, respectively, that have lately been under examination by Mr. A. G. Larson, of Vancouver, and two assistants. It is understood that Mr. Larson is favourably impressed with some of the properties investigated. The majority of the mineral showings examined are thought to be sufficiently promising to justify further development.

While prospecting operations for coal and oil are being continued on Graham island, little definite information is made public concerning results. From time to time the island is visited by coal mining engineers, some of whom are strong in their denunciation of the gross exaggerations that have appeared in advertisements having for their main object the sale of shares. Several organizations, however, have been engaged in prospecting and development work, so that it is considered probable production of coal will be practicable from one or two properties whenever the necessary handling plant shall be put in.

IN SKEENA DISTRICT.

Among a number of promising silver-lead mineral claims in the vicinity of Hazelton, Skeena River district, on which silver-lead ores are reported to occur, are those comprising the Silver Standard group, on Glen mountain, about five miles north of Hazelton. A few weeks ago the Omineca Health gave an account of a visit paid to this property by Mr. John L. Ratallack, of Kaslo, B.C., a well-known Slocan min-owner and manager, and Messrs. J. W. Stewart and P. Welch, railway contractors, who are owners, or part owners of the property. The party was shown the mine by Superintendent Haskins. The Herald said: "After the inspection—and it may be mentioned that Mr. Retallack, who had examined the mine on two other occasions, stated there was absolutely no doubt about the Silver Standard becoming one of the best producers in the country—the owners of the property got together and decided upon plans for the immediate commencement of development on a much larger scale than has yet been attempted on any property in this district. The first thing will be to enlarge the camp to accommodate the larger number of men who are to be employed as quickly as things can be got in readiness for them. A compressor plant has been ordered for immediate shipment, and it is expected to arrive within the next ten days. Power drills have been ordered, together with all requisites for the new plant. Upon its receipt at the mine the machinery, etc., will be put in, and thereafter the heavy work will be commenced. One of the first things to be undertaken will be the work of driving a cross-cut tunnel from the 250-ft. level from the main shaft on No. 2 vein, to cut No. 3 and other veins above. This will open several of the larger veins and put the mine in shape to become a continuous and permanent shipper. It is estimated that this work will allow of some 40 tons of ore being mined a day and shipped to a smeltery.

CASCADE RIVER, PORTLAND CANAL MINING DIVISION.

During the greater part of the current year development work has been in continuous progress on the Cascade Falls Mining Company's group of mineral claims, situated in the Salmon River district of Portland Canal mining division, and results have proved generally satisfactory. Work has been restricted chiefly to driving a cross-cut tunnel, with the object of cutting at depth a vein described as being 20 ft. in width and containing silver-lead ore. This vein previously had been exposed in a number of surface cuts along a distance of between 300 and 400 ft. The underground cross-cut reached the vein early in September, and since then the working has been in ore of quite a different character to the galena, pyrite, and chalcopyrite found at the surface, for the fissure was filled with quartz and schist, which, though not at first thought to be of much value, has since been found to contain gold and silver, for assay returns of samples have been obtained that show from 1.24 oz. to 2.04 oz. gold and 87.4 to 93.4 oz. silver to the ton. The vein was reached at between 230 and 240 ft. from the portal of the cross-cut adit. The depth at the face is 135 ft. The ore obtained in the drift is stated to be of the highest grade yet found at depth in Salmon River district. A favourable smelting rate has been quoted, so it is the company's intention to ship ore during the coming winter.

The following excerpt has been taken from Mr. R. G. McConnell's report on the Salmon River district, included in the "Summary Report" of the Geological Survey for 1911:

"The first camp reached ascending Cascade river is that of Bunting Bros. and Dillworth, situated at an elevation of 1,050 ft. on the eastern bank of the east fork of Cascade river about a mile northeast of the International Boundary, and 12 miles from Portland canal, following the Salmon valley. A joint stock company, under the name of the Cascade Falls Mining Company, has recently taken over the five claims held by this syndicate.

"The principal showing occurs on Cascade Falls No. 2 claim, and consist of a mineralized zone traversing the greenstone schists which form the country rock in an easterly direction. The schists for a width of more than 30 ft. are altered and strongly silicified and pyritized. In portions of the zone galena is present in considerable quantities, associated with some zinc blende and occasional grains of chalcopyrite. A rough sample across 8 ft. of the best mineralized portion of the lead assayed in the laboratory of the Department of Mines, yielded: Gold, 0.14 oz., and silver, 7 oz. per ton, and lead 7.60 per cent. Ore of this grade could doubtless be mined at a profit in the district if present in quantity, but the extent to which it persists either in depth or along the strike of the lead has not yet been demonstrated. The mineralization is irregular both across the lead and along its strike, portions of the zone containing little or no galena, which is the principal silver-bearing mineral; and the present workings are limited to a shallow cut in the steep hillside across the lead and some surface stripping. The prospects are, however, considered favourable enough to justify a considerable expenditure for further exploratory work."

It should be remembered that about a year had elapsed between the time of Mr. McConnell's visit to the Cascade Falls group and that at which the information first above-given relates to, the latter having been only quite recently supplied.