

decomposed, serpentinous mineral, containing a deal of talc, which differs little in composition from the original serpentine. Through the whole of this portion native silver is present in fine state of dissemination, and in addition scales or plates of the same metal are to be observed wherever the ore is broken. These laminae or plates of silver are of varying sizes but specimens from a half to a square inch in area are by no means uncommon. The rest of the vein consists of rich argentiferous galena in which no native silver is apparent, and this is present in three streaks, two, four and fifteen inches wide respectively. The whole appears to dip almost vertically into the formation as after tracing it across the creek it is entirely lost. Mr. J. A. Finch, a prominent mining man from Idaho, who has spent a considerable sum in mining operations in this locality and to whom it was recently bonded for \$50,000.00, intends to develop it vigorously at once by sinking on the lode, and should it prove to lose nothing as depth is gained, it will cer-

which assayed as high as 1500 ounces silver and \$150 gold per ton. It appears to be essentially a poor man's proposition, as without any capital they have succeeded in taking out many tons of ore and shipping some to the smelter. Unfortunately there was but a poor trail to the mine and it cost them 30 to 40 dollars per ton to pack the ore out on mules to Slocan City, besides the usual freight and treatment charges. The government however is expected to make an appropriation shortly for the purpose of providing better trails, when the lowering of transportation rates will be much facilitated and a great deal of ore now lying on the dumps will be immediately shipped. The building of the railway through New Denver to Slocan Crossing on the Nelson branch, which it is announced will be begun at once and finished during the year, will help largely in this direction, as it is expected to follow the lake shore and pass within a very few miles of the producing claims.

The only other shipment up to the present was one of



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tainly rank among the most valuable mines in the Province, and give a stimulus to mining in that district which will place it beyond all doubt on a permanent basis. Several intending purchasers were in to see this property last fall, among them being some gentlemen from the coast, but as usual the best claims fall to the lot of enterprising American investors, and it was therefore no surprise to anybody when it was announced that it had been bonded to Mr. Finch who, we all hope and feel sure, will be well repaid for his confidence in the camp.

So far but two claims have been enabled to ship ore from this district and of these the Howard Fraction, situated some seven miles from the lake on the north fork of Lemon Creek, contributed seven tons, which gave returns of 163 ounces silver and \$17 gold per ton. This claim is owned and worked by a small company of prospectors from the Black Hills, Dakota, who discovered it last fall. There are several small but rich leads of dry ore on the property and specimens have been obtained

five tons from a claim called the Exchange, at the head of Dayton Creek, about four miles from the lake, the exact returns from which I have not before me, but I understand that it averaged about the same as the Howard Fraction shipment. The owners, Messrs. Boies & Isaacson, erected buildings in the fall and have been working on the claim all winter. The ledge is fully four feet wide, and dips at an angle of about 40 degrees, it consists of quartz, which is sometimes very pyritic, carrying native silver and argentite. As is frequently the case in ores of this character, especially when from near the surface, it is very variable in quality and in trying to avoid shipping poor ore at the present high transportation rates, they probably left as good or better ore on the dump than they shipped, it being very hard to judge the value of the ore without very fine hand dressing.

No account of this district would be complete without reference to the claim known as the Two Friends. This was located last fall by Messrs. Murphy and Schon-