

the same mines followed during the summer. A wagon road has been built to Northport, in the State of Washington, of 17 miles, where the northern terminus of the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad could be reached. Ore from Trail Creek went out to this road by wagons over the Northport road, and also to Trail Landing and down to Northport on steamer over the Columbia River. The shipments soon reached 150 tons a day, the ore being worth not less than \$40 per ton. Great progress in the general development of the camp has taken place during 1895. Successful development work has been prosecuted on the Kootenay, Columbia, the Iron Horse, the Crown Point, the Lee and Maid of Erin, the Colona, the Jumbo, the Homestake, the Gem, the Deer Park, the Zilor, the Good Hope, the Gold Hill, the Gopher, the Nickel Plate, the Centre Star, the Iron Mask, the Mountain View, the St. Elmo, the St. Elmo Consolidated, the Highland, the Georgia, the Cliff and others. All these are now ranked as partially developed mines of bright promise. The Le Roi, during the year, has put up a hoisting plant that raises 125 tons a day, also a compressor which runs seven machine drills. The War Eagle Company are just completing the erection of a compressor that will have a capacity of 20 power drills, and the Centre Star Company have a compressor ready to operate seven drills. The Kootenay and Columbia are to be worked by the Trail Mining Company, which, in the spring of 1896, will put in a thirty drill compressor. Power drills are also to be put in this winter or next spring by the Cliff, the St. Elmo, the Josie, the Iron Horse, the Crown Point and probably the Homestake. The Lee and Maid of Erin have a small drill plant in operation, which will probably be enlarged during 1896. It is not unreasonable to predict an output of 100,000 tons for 1896 worth from \$3,500,000 to \$4,000,000.

So great is the assurance of a large ore supply that a strong company began the construction of a large matting and smelting plant at Trail, on the Columbia River, seven miles from Rossland, in October of last year, and will have it ready for operation by 1st February next. The same company are now building a tramway to transport ore from the principal mines about Rossland to the smelter. It will be completed and ready for business by February 1st. The smelter and tramway together represent an outlay of not less than \$500,000. Surveys have been made by both the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad Company and the Canadian Pacific Company for lines into this wonderful camp, and these lines will be built as soon as practicable in the spring, and will represent an outlay of not less than \$2,000,000. This, in brief, indicates the confidence felt in the Trail Creek mines, and it also indicates something of the activity that may be looked for in and about Rossland during the year 1896.

Fort Steele Mining Division.

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The Fort Steele Mining Division of East Kootenay District comprises a large tract of country, lying in the extreme S. E. corner of British Columbia, bounded on the south by the International Boundary, on the east by Alberta (one of the Northwest Territories) on the west by the District of West Kootenay, and on the north by the watershed between the waters of the Columbia and Kootenay rivers. The main valley, which is from five to fifteen miles in width, is formed from the Kootenay river, which flows in a south-easterly direction for about one hundred and twenty miles through the district, separating the Rockies on the east from the Purcell range

of mountains on the west. The intervening country, consisting of bottom lands interspersed with hay meadows which lay along the banks of the river and its numerous tributaries, while rolling bunch grass hills, sparsely timbered with fir, yellow pine and tamarack extend back to the foot of the mountains, affording every facility for horse and cattle ranching, also farming on a small scale. But it is as well to bear in mind that the prosperity of this district depends entirely on the development of its mineral wealth, the presence of which has been proved now beyond a shadow of doubt, and it is only a matter of time, and, we believe, a short time at that, when this portion of British Columbia will take its place among the great mineral producing regions of the continent. A great change has taken place within the last year or two, we have now several ore producing mines; fresh locations and discoveries are constantly being made, development work is being pushed forward with much more zeal and vigor on the different mineral belts, showing up numerous valuable deposits of gold, silver, iron and copper, the most important being what is known as the North Star group, discovered in the summer of 1892. It was purchased by D. D. Mann of Montreal, who formed a company for the purpose of developing it; at present they have about 30 men employed getting out ore, extracting from 25 to 30 tons a day, and expect to have over 3,000 tons ready for shipment in the spring,—the property consisting of four 1,500 ft. claims, situate about 20 miles north-west of Fort Steele, being an immense body of steel galena, the work extends over about 450 feet of the lode,—one drift shows solid galena and carbonates to the remarkable width of 65 feet, assays run from 47 oz. to over 85 oz. in silver, with 67 per cent of lead. Quite lately a small stringer was struck assaying as high as 267 oz.

In the same neighborhood, about a couple of miles to the north, we come to the Sullivan group, which was discovered about a week after the North Star. A good deal of development work has been done on this property, exposing to view 16 ft. of solid ore. Between these two groups, and in the vicinity, about 40 claims have been staked off, on many of which ore has been struck. A wagon road has been made from the mines to the Kootenay river, over which a number of teams will be employed during the winter hauling ore.

Fort Steele, the distributing point of the district, is situate on a bench overlooking the Kootenay at its confluence with the St. Mary's river and Wild Horse creek. Steamers ply on the river between here and Tonnings, on the Great Northern, and connect with steamers from Golden on the C. P. R. It will quite likely become a place of importance in the near future, as the numerous mines in the vicinity are developed. Up Wild Horse Creek, about five miles from Fort Steele, is the old Kootenay placer camp, out of which millions of dollars in gold dust have been taken. Two companies are at present engaged in hydraulic mining, besides some Chinamen. It is a picturesque spot, with its ancient buildings, Chinese quarters, and old graveyard; surrounded with piles of debris, bare bedrock and high cut banks, showing the immense amount of work that has been done in the past, during the palmy days when gold could be got in plenty, just for the digging. Without doubt, there is still a large extent of ground to be worked over, which will pay well for the trouble. But the chief interest from now on will centre in the gold quartz properties in the vicinity, numerous claims having been staked off on the main stream and its tributaries, development work and assay returns show that there are valuable deposits of gold quartz within a radius of four or five miles of the old placer camp, which are