

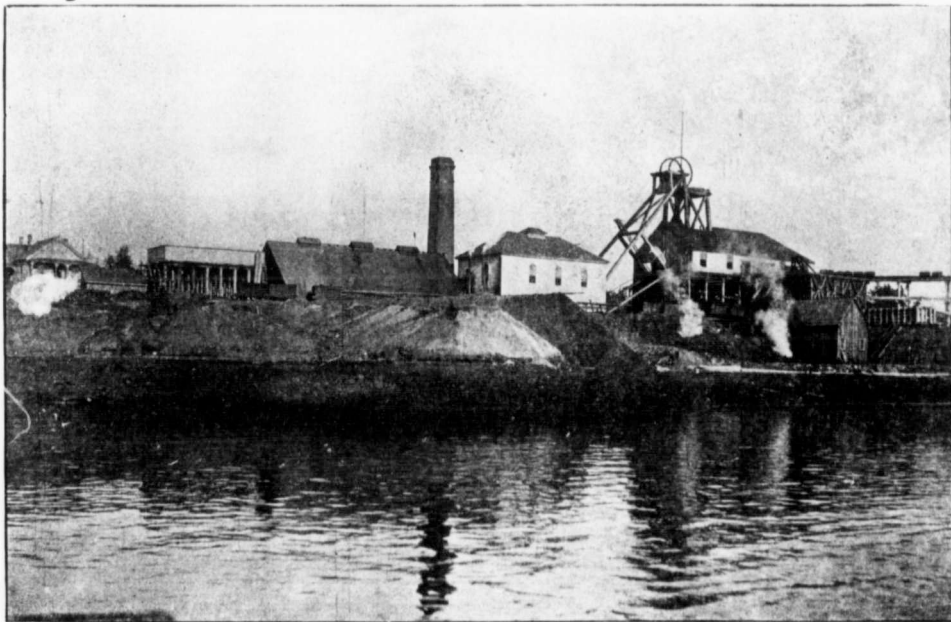
The island, when considered in detail and with regard to its mining divisions, is found to embrace all of the Victoria, Alberni and West Coast divisions, as well as a large portion of the Nanaimo division.

VICTORIA DISTRICT—VICTORIA MINING DIVISION.

"Commencing at a point in Portier's Pass, between Valdes and Galiano islands, thence southwesterly, passing to south of Kuper island to the northern boundary of the Chemainus land recording division; thence west along such northern boundary to a point where it intersects the height of land separating the drainage area of Cowichan lake from the drainage area of Nanaimo river; thence northwesterly along such height of land to a point where it joins the height of land separating the drainage area of the Nitinat river and lake on east from drainage area of those streams flowing into Alberni can-

followed by the location of a large number of mineral claims in that immediate neighborhood, as well as in the Sooke mountains, and on Mount Sicker, some 30 miles north from Goldstream.

The Sooke mountains are formed from the uplifting of the semi-crystalline slates. These slates have much the appearance of metamorphosed Cambrian shales, and carry quite an appreciable percentage of graphite. The strata have been tilted from their horizontal position to nearly vertical, either from lateral pressure or from the upheaval of the intrusive igneous dykes, or both. The strike of these slates is northwesterly. Interfoliated conformably with line of strike are numerous lenses of quartz; usually narrow and quite limited in length. This quartz is generally gold bearing, and evidently was the source of the placer gold of Leach and Sooke rivers, the waters of which have cut channels through the mountains, and crosscut the formation.



HEAD WORKS AT THE NEW VANCOUVER COAL COMPANY'S COLLIERY.

al and Barclay sound on west; thence southwesterly along such height of land to the Pacific ocean; thence by Straits of Juan de Fuca, Haro Straits, Gulf of Georgia, to point of commencement."

Prospecting in this territory began as early as 1860, when placer gold was discovered in the Leach and Sooke rivers. Leachtown, a typical mining camp, was built and the population is reported as at one time having reached several hundreds. The yield of placer gold was satisfactory for some years, but when worked out, as no gold-bearing quartz of sufficient grade and extent was discovered, prospecting was abandoned and it was not until about 1896 or 1897 that prospectors revisited this section of the island and resumed their explorations. The discovery of a heavy iron capping, below which was found high grade chalcopryite ore on Skirt mountain, at Goldstream, about ten miles from Victoria, gave the incentive to the prospector and was

Owing to the auriferous character of the quartz lenses quite a number of mineral claims were located some years back, but none of them have developed into mines although on some much work has been done.

MOUNT SKIRT.

Mount Skirt is situated on the southern flank of the belt of slate, and apparently belongs to the same formation; but the rocks, which are schistose, have been very much more metamorphosed. The ore body on the Phair-Lubbe group of mineral claims has every appearance of filling a series of lenticular fissures. The general line of strike is approximately conformable to that of the country rock, but through faulting the continuity of these fissures has been disturbed and consequently the one ore body appears from a cursory examination to be really three distinct bodies.

Since operations were commenced on this group of