

man, Silver King, Exchequer and Fern, a very good showing, as compared with that of even a year ago. In Ainsworth, the oldest mining camp in the Kootenays, a little mining has been going on, but this district has for long been overshadowed by its neighbour, the Slocan, and its low-grade lead ores have met with well nigh insuperable difficulties in finding a satisfactory market.

The Slocan district has during the year been the theatre of a protracted struggle between labour and capital. The year began with the promise of a most brilliant record of ore production, which was wrecked by the passage of the eight-hour law, whose effects have been twofold. Capital was withdrawn and mines in operation closed down, while the best miners left the country, such of them as were not tied down through being themselves owners of property. The friendly relations previously existing between employer and employed have been broken and a feeling of distrust and animosity substituted, while unrest, indecision and fear have spread over, not only the Slocan, but the other mining districts of the Province. However, under a system of contract labour much useful and necessary development work has been done in the Slocan. The mines present a better appearance than they did a year ago. They are ready as soon as the unfortunate dispute is adjusted to contribute their proper quota to the mineral output of the Province.

The Boundary country, Camp McKinney, the Ymir District, Moyie and Lardeau, while it is possible that Camp McKinney and the Ymir district belong rather to the first category, range themselves naturally under the head of hitherto unproductive or only spasmodically productive districts.

In the Boundary district the evidences of wealth and development have been more apparent during 1899 than in any other portion of British Columbia. A railway has been completed, two smelters are under construction, small shipments have already begun, and the list of mines has grown enormously. The year has been one of great activity. As yet the tangible results in the shape of profits are small, because the full tale of development has not been accomplished, but a comparison of the position of that district to-day with its position a year ago is most satisfactory. In another year it will be self-supporting and will be enriching the owners of its mines with dividends.

Camp McKinney has never attracted the attention it deserves. Still its development as a great free milling quartz camp is certain, if slow. The number of stamps falling in Camp McKinney has been doubled during the past year, and if only present contracts for machinery are carried out will be doubled again in the forthcoming twelve months. In Ymir also the year has been one of steady progress. The Ymir mine is installing forty stamps, bringing its battery up to eighty stamps and enabling the treatment of 250 tons of ore a day. Numerous other properties in that district have been consistently developed during the year and may be expected to give returns within the next twelve months.

The Moyie camp has been placed in a position during the past year to become a steady and large producer of silver and lead. Its activity has, however, been hampered by the operation of the eight-hour law, the company controlling the St. Eugene group

preferring to wait until that dispute is settled before commencing active mining operations.

In the Lardeau district more development has been done during 1899 than ever before. But ere any tangible results can be obtained railway transportation must be provided. Fortunately this will not now be long delayed. Impressed with the magnificent results already obtained from opening new and but partially developed mining territory south, the Great Northern and the Canadian Pacific Railway companies are pushing construction into the Lardeau country, and before the close of 1900 railway transportation should be assured. For consideration as new districts, East Kootenay, the Similkameen, the Bridge River district of Lillooet, and the copper deposits of Vancouver Island and the Coast have been reserved. It may seem curious and perhaps unfair to class East Kootenay as a new district. It has one great mine extensively developed and within measurable distance of being both productive and dividend paying. Still, if the territory be looked on as a whole it is emphatically a new district, and in so far as its mineral resources are concerned even yet a *terra incognita*. Until the Crow's Nest Pass Railway was constructed there was little inducement to prospect in East Kootenay. But during the last year prospectors have gone in in great numbers, and one and all have brought out flattering reports of its coming greatness. Severe difficulties were found through the inclemency of the season in prospecting the country. It may be expected that greater and more important discoveries will be made during the coming year. Of the Similkameen the same thing may be said, although from the best reports obtainable this district does not give evidence of the same extent and richness as East Kootenay.

The Bridge River district of Lillooet has already one productive mine, and more will be added to the list during the forthcoming year. It seems one of the most promising gold districts in the Province.

Of the coast of Vancouver Island, and indeed the whole coast of British Columbia it is impossible to say much. It is an enormous territory, full of rich indications of mineral. One or two prospects are partially developed, and one mine maintains a matting plant in operations. But these are mere drops in the bucket. When the reserves of mineral territory in British Columbia still undeveloped and unexplored, are passed in review and compared with the infinitesimal sections in which results have been obtained it is realized that not in a day, nor a year, nor a generation is the industrial conquest of such a country achieved.

It is impossible not to feel encouraged by what has been done even in a period of twelve months. Much has been accomplished towards placing the mining industry on a commercial basis, great sums of money have been invested in the purchase and development of mines and in the construction of railways. Industrial progress taking place in a new country of unbounded natural resources like British Columbia is like a snowball in its course. As it rolls on it gathers volume and momentum. Year by year its boundaries extend, and its activities increase. The great advance of 1899 foreshadows and holds within it the promise of still greater progress in 1900 and in succeeding years.

We have much pleasure in printing in this issue