

it follows up to its source in Hunter basin. The distance from the Second Crossing to Hunter Basin is about five miles, in which distance the trail rises some 2,300 ft., on to an altitude of 5,500 ft. This portion of the trail is a trail in name only. It is poorly laid out, scarcely cut out, is steep and has no bottom, no foothold for horses, and is quite incapable of standing traffic of any amount.

Hunter Basin.

"Hunter Basin lies at the head of 4-Mile Creek, at an altitude of some 5,500 ft., and is an amphitheatre surrounded by hills rising precipitously for from 1,000 to 1,500 ft. higher. Timber-line was found to be at an altitude of about 4,500 to 5,000 ft., there being no timber in the basin save a few scrub spruce found in a little draw. The hills to the east and south present perpendicular faces to the valley, while those to the north and west, as is usual in northern latitudes, have a more gradual slope and are covered by sufficient soil to permit of grass taking root, which affords very fair feed for horses. These perpendicular exposures show the rock formation to be entirely of volcanic origin, chiefly basalt and allied rocks, stratified in layers of considerable thickness, with a dip to the east; the perpendicular faces to the west giving the impression that the whole has been subjected to a series of step-faults running north and south, the major faults occasioning the basins and the drains through which the creeks flow. No dykes could be seen cutting the formations and measures were not much disturbed, save by the faults mentioned. The entire basin and the sides, to a height of 1,500 ft., is covered with broken slide-rock from the surrounding cliffs, completely masking the solid formation.

"Camp for the night was made in the lower part of the basin, difficulty being found in getting a pole suitable to hold up the tent.

"September 10.—The weather was clear, the temperature having dropped the previous night to below freezing. Camp was not moved, the day being spent examining claims staked in the vicinity.

"In the basin there are two small cabins belonging respectively to Wm. Hunter and the Carr Bros., prospectors, who have claims staked on the cliffs some 1,000 to 1,500 ft. higher up. From these cabins a trail, fit for foot passengers only, on its upper reaches, winds through a draw to the south. The claims in the vicinity had, for the most part, been only recently staked, and very little development work was found on any of them.

"The working season here for out-of-door work, must be very short, and the difficulty and expense of carrying on work under such conditions so great as to deter all efforts at development until railway transportation is assured and supplies much diminished in cost.

"King.—The King mineral claim was among the first staked in the basin, the location being made in 1903 by Wm. Hunter, after whom the basin was named. This claim is in a draw or break in the cliffs to the south of the basin, at an altitude of some 6,500 ft., or some 1,000 ft. above the cabin. Here a pros-

pecting shaft had been sunk to a depth of from 16 to 18 ft. and roughly timbered with poles packed up from below the cabins. The work done showed a fissure in the country rock, having a S. 45° W., and which, where the shaft was put down, had a width of about two feet, but which on the surface, as traced for a few feet in either direction, pinched down to as many inches in width, and no further widenings had been developed, nor did the ore body quite hold its own with the depth of the shaft. This ore body, though small, contained some very pretty ore, copper sulphides, chiefly bornite, with yellow copper towards the ends of the lens. Specimens of the ore brought away assayed 63.42 per cent copper, with 81.6 oz. silver, and 0.04 oz. gold to the ton.

Waresco.—To the right of the trail up to the King claim, at about 300 ft. above the cabins, there were found the stakes of the Waresco claim located by L. H. Bishop in 1904, and on which not more than one assessment had been done, this consisting of an open cut. In a crushed zone, some six to seven feet wide, and cutting the country rock nearly vertically in a N. 45° E. direction, is a vein of rather undefined width containing copper ore—copper glance, bornite and pyrite—of which it was estimated about half a ton had been taken out and was on the dump. The development as yet is too slight to show what quantity of ore is likely to be found, but the quality of the ore is all that could be desired. Selected ore taken from the dump assayed: Copper, 51 per cent; silver, 180 oz.; gold, 0.16 oz. to the ton.

"To the left of Hunter's trail the stakes of a claim were found, on which the name of the claim was illegible, but the locator was M. S. Carr. This location had apparently been allowed to lapse and was re-staked in 1905. A small amount of stripping had been done, but no mineral, other than a little copper stain, could be seen, nor was there any defined fissure or vein visible.

"Rainbow.—To the north of the King claim at about the same elevation on a bluff overhanging the basin, and separated from the main mountain behind, several places were noticed where work had been recently done. It was, however, found impossible to determine definitely as to what claim these belonged, but, as best could be made out, they were mostly on the Rainbow mineral claim, located by Wm. Hunter.

"The country rock is a red basalt, resembling a Jasper. The whole mass of this detached bluff appears to have been faulted or slid down from the higher mountain to the south, causing small fissures.

"Near the No. 2 stake was found a fissure, which was traceable on the surface for some distance, with a width of from one-half in. to six in., and contained a micaceous variety of specular iron with a small amount of sulphide, of which mineral some half-ton lay on the dump at this point.

"In an open cut on the very edge of the bluff is another fissure of greater width, the extension of which could not be seen, however, and from which some four tons of this micaceous iron had been collected and laid aside on canvas sheets.