

THE GREAT BOUNDARY MINING DISTRICT

SOUTHEASTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

COMPLETE HISTORY OF ITS WORKING MINES AND SMELTERS

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ACCORDING to the general understanding of the oldest of the old settlers, the first man to come into what is now known as the Boundary Mining District of Southeastern

British Columbia, was Charles Deitz, who arrived in this section in the year 1857. Mr. Deitz is still a resident of the Boundary, now living in a comfortable old age on his ranch a few miles above Rock Creek. Old "Jolly Jack" Thornton was supposed to be the second man to reach this now well known mining region. As early as 1862 Boundary creek was worked for placer gold, and there was a small settlement south of the international boundary line, near where the town of Midway is now located.

In the year 1884 the first mineral claims were staked in Southern British Columbia. These were the Eagle, on Hardy Mountain, by James McConnell, and the Victoria and Washington, afterwards Old England, on Rock creek, a few miles above Kettle river. W. T. Smith and John East came to the Boundary district in 1887, and located the Rocky Bar claim, now the Tunnel, on Boundary creek, near the falls. In the same year they also located the Nonsuch in Smith's camp. In the same year, 1887, the Bruce claim, on Ingram Mountain, near Midway, was also located by East.

Three prospectors, George and David Leyson, and George Y. Bower-

man, located the Big Copper, in what is now Copper Camp. The claim was then known as the Bluebird. Afterwards they went over the Dewdney trail to Rossland, where some locations were also made, and the Boundary claims were allowed to lapse. The King Solomon, in Copper Camp, was

staked the Mother Lode in Deadwood camp, and on June 2nd of the same year John East and William Ingram located the Sunset and Crown Silver in the same camp.

By this time the pioneer prospectors were beginning to cross over the valley to where the city of Phoenix now



ONE OF THE OLDEST MINERS' CABINS ON BOUNDARY CREEK, BUILT IN 1886.

stood by Ed. Lefevre and James Lynch, and in 1888 it was acquired by D. C. Corbin, of Spokane Falls and Northern railway fame. In 1890-91 some locations were made by James Atwood and John Lemon near the Buckhorn, in Deadwood camp. On the 23rd of May, 1891, William McCormack and Richard Thompson

stands, and Matthew Hotter located the Old Ironsides in July, 1891, and Henry White located the Knob Hill about the same time. Jas. Atwood and James Schofield located the Stemwinder and G. W. Rumberger and Joe Taylor located the Brooklyn; other locations in this camp followed in rapid succession. Atwood and