

the medium of these offices nearly all the transactions relative to mining properties have to pass.

In order to understand more definitely what is being done in the silver mining districts these divisions may be taken separately, and the peculiarities and state of development of each one be noted—that is, in the case of the more important producing divisions. East Kootenay as a silver mining district may be taken as a whole, considering the state of its present development.

Of the divisions of West Kootenay the four leading silver producers are Slocan, Ainsworth, Nelson and Kaslo. Trout Lake mining division, Illecillewaet, Lardeau and Caribou Creek are coming producers and are actively developing their prospects and building trails and roads.

These statements all refer to silver mining.

EAST KOOTENAY DISTRICT

This district was first explored for minerals as a placer camp, as is usual with most camps which ultimately turn to quartz mining or solid rock work.

After the placer camps at Galbraith's Ferry in 1864, little was done until Major Steele came in from the Northwest in 1887 and established Fort Steele.

Since that time many large deposits of argentiferous galena have been located, more especially in that portion west of the Columbia which is drained by the St. Mary's and Moyie rivers. Chief amongst these are the North Star, 20 miles north-west of Fort Steele, and Sullivan groups, also the St. Eugenie on Moyie lake, and the Dibble group in the Rocky mountains. Of these ore bodies, the North Star is at present the only active producer.

This mine has been making an output of about 30 tons of picked galena per day during the past season. This ore is taken overland to the Columbia river, by sleighs or waggons, and from thence goes down the Kootenay river to Jennings, Montana, at which point the ore is shipped *via* the Great Northern Railway. Other mines have made sample shipments, but apparently at the present time the ore bodies cannot bear this high transportation charge.

A waggon road connects Fort Steele and Golden on the C. P. R., a distance of 160 miles, also a more or less effective water route *via* the Upper Columbia river.

With points on the Great Northern there are fair transportation facilities down the Kootenay river, boats being run up and down by the Upper Kootenay Navigation Company, which has a contract to bring down 5,000 tons of North Star ore to Jennings, Montana.

This district is composed of five divisions, in which more or less development is going on, principally, however, in gold quartz and placer mining, with the exception of Fort Steele division, which promises more for a silver-lead camp. The chief silver bearing minerals of this district are, as usual, galena and copper combinations. The galena is in large bodies, but of somewhat lower grade than that of many West Kootenay camps.

It may be seen on a map of this district that the St. Mary's river, Perry creek and Moyie river country stretches westward across the Purcell range and finally meets the ore-bearing region draining down into Kootenay lake, including the White Grouse mountains, which are now attracting considerable attention.

When the much-hoped for Crow's Nest railroad comes through, East Kootenay will be one of the earliest and most benefited regions. It has abundance of coking coal within easy distance, together with iron and limestone suitable for fluxes. Then, like many another waiting camp, it will no doubt outshine the present chief producers.

WEST KOOTENAY.

Under the head division of Revelstoke there are in the north part of West Kootenay the sub-divisions Illecillewaet, Lardeau and Trout lake, all of which have valuable deposits of more or less low-grade silver

ores, together with some smaller bodies of exceedingly high-grade combinations. In the Illecillewaet and Lardeau only the ordinary development of non-shipping camps has gone on during the past year, together with some important transfers.

TROUT LAKE MINING DIVISION.

This is also a camp which owes its origin to placer mining, a little of which is still carried on in winter.

Trout lake is situated 12 miles east of the north-east arm of the Upper Arrow lake, and is reached by a good waggon road which crosses the summit through a low, wide pass, less than 1,000 ft. above Upper Arrow lake, and 4 miles west of Trout lake; from this point the drainage is eastwards, and thence south down the Lardeau river to the Duncan river and Kootenay lake.

This low pass will possibly be one way for all-rail communication from Revelstoke to Kootenay lake, as suggested by Dr. Dawson in his report upon this district in 1889. At present, however, the means of transportation are expensive, as may be judged from shipments of the "Silver Cup" during last winter, the only shipments of any account from this division. The ore from this mine was "raw-hided" over the range to Trout lake, from there by open boat to the waggon road, thence 12 miles by sleighs to Thompson's landing on the north-east arm of Arrow lake, again by boat to the C. P. R. at Arrowhead.

Such shipments as these are expensive, but they are the means of making a producing camp and carry more weight than much newspaper "booming."

In this division,—upon the mountains north of the low divide, there are great bodies of low-grade argentiferous galena, and further northwards still along the contact of a great band of crystalline limestone, and the prevailing schists there are combinations of galena, zinc blende and gray copper, which carry from 200 ozs. to 2,000 ozs silver per ton.

These richer locations are too much out of the way for present shipping, although good pack trails have been built and a waggon road is now in progress. This particular district seems to have a greater fall of snow and rain than other portions of West Kootenay, and many of the locations are among snow-slides for a considerable portion of the year, especially those about the head waters of the Duncan and Lardeau rivers.

This division claims some of the largest bodies of galena in West Kootenay, but these must lie idle until further railroad development takes place.

In connection with the very apparent influence of country rock upon mineral combinations in this district, it may be of interest to note that this portion of the country is overlain by great bands of stratified rock, singularly regular in its strike and dip, considering the broken state of the ranges further southward.

These rocks are chiefly composed of fine mica schists, more or less calcareous, and chloritic schists and massive limestone, with serpentine in places. The strike is north-westerly. A chart of this country showing the mining claims at once indicates a conformation of the principal veins with the banding of the rock, such a strong conformation that groups of a score of claims are located in one long line. This is especially true of the contact of the massive limestone and schist.

For the condition of development this division has had a considerable number of bonds and sales during the past.

Prospecting is more active this summer than previously.

The number of claims recorded as located during 1895 was 75; bills of sale, 38.

AINSWORTH DIVISION.

This is the oldest camp of West Kootenay and was the first producer of ore, locations having been made in 1883. Previous to this the great deposit of ore now being worked for the Pilot Bay smelter was