

can expect to live. It is expected to take two years to get the mine in working order. Mr. Lantz will return in a few weeks.

### EAST KOOTENAY.

The Dibble group of mines in East Kootenay have been bonded by Messrs. Sprague & Chisholm, in the sum of \$25,000.

A snow road from Fort Steele to Tobacco Plains will be made this winter. There were 140 mining locations made in the Fort Steele division this last year. The North Star is working in a body of very rich ore.

At present many parties are engaged in prospecting the old channels of various creeks in East Kootenay. Placering is still actively operated on several well known streams during the working season.

Fort Steele expects a considerable influx of men and money next spring.

The North Star has about 1,200 tons of ore on the dump awaiting shipment next spring. The development of Fort Steele mining is sadly hampered by the absence of adequate shipping and transportation facilities. While several thousand tons could easily be produced by such mines as the North Star, St. Eugene, Dibble and Sullivan groups, all the opportunity for is provided shipping by two small streams, capable of hauling about 125 tons a week. And this they cannot do steadily for want of improvement in river navigation.

These mines are situated on the east fork of Wild Horse Creek, some two miles from the forks. The Sweepstakes, located by Chas. Elwood, Maud S., by H. L. Amme, and the Nancy Hanks by A. B. Grace, have the largest vein of mineral discovered in this district. The vein is 400 feet in width, and can be traced for a distance of 4,000 feet. There has been considerable work done on these claims, the ledge has been cut showing mineral the full width of the vein; there are numerous small cuts some sixty feet apart; also a tunnel in some 15 feet. The ore is iron sulphurets, an analysis of the ore is: Lead carbonates, silver sulphide, iron sulphurets per oxide, manganese oxide, zinc sulphide, aluminium oxide, gold, silicon oxide (quartz). As there is a large body of this ore, it can be profitably worked by smelting with galena or any other lead product. An average of 14 assays give \$17.80 to the ton. In the event of a smelter being erected in this district, these claims will prove valuable (aside from the gold and silver contained in the ore) as a flux to any and all lead products.

One of the various resources of East Kootenay awaiting for development is the petroleum found in the Flathead Valley in the southeastern portion of this district. This is a section of country but little known—and is separated from the remainder of the district by a high range of mountains. The natural outlet of the valley is down the Flathead River into Montana, and the nearest railroad is the Great Northern. Some years ago attention was called to this section through the finding of crude oil in the possession of some Stony Indians who annually hunted in this valley. They were induced to show some miners where they obtained the oil, which they (the Indians) were in the habit of using as a medicine for complaints of all kinds. The surface indications are good, and two different qualities of oil have been obtained.

### WEST KOOTENAY.

The Black Diamond will resume operations this month, and soon after the new year a tramway will probably be

put in on the lake shore, to convey the ore from the property and the Little Phil and the Little Donald.

McVicar Brothers have bonded the Mile Point from G. B. Wright, and are taking out several tons a day that assay from 100 to 300 ounces.

The Skyline continues to ship twelve tons of ore a day. At present they are working in a chute of ore that assays 700 ounces.

An English party are taking a bond on three properties on Gold Hill, Illecillewaet. They will do more during the coming three months. Before the fall in silver considerable work was done on these properties, which carry silver, lead, and gold in a vein of from six to ten feet.

The Minister of Mines has changed the boundaries of the Trout Lake and Ainsworth Mining Divisions by detaching from the latter all that portion of Duncan River lying above East Creek, and adding it to the Trout Lake Division.

At the No. 1, under the new management, with a force of only one-fourth that formerly employed, they are taking out double the amount of ore. They now have over 1,000 sacks ahead of the teams. The bulk of the ore runs from 80 to 100 ounces and much of it is from 1,000 to 3,000 ounces. The breast of the "silver drift" now shows nearly four feet of ore that assays above 1,600 ounces. The concentrator is closed down for the winter on account of low water.

Since March 16, 3,000 tons of bullion have been shipped from the Pilot Bay smelter, and this too when the smelter has been running only about half time.

Messrs. Baum, Bigham, and Lendrum, who have a claim near the townsite of Lardo, at the north of Kootenay Lake, sent 1,300 pounds of ore to the smelter at Pilot Bay for a test. The return made was 106 ounces of silver to the ton. The vein is two feet wide and carries six inches of ore.

Fifteen tons of 150-ounce and 35 tons of 80-ounce ore have been extracted from the No. 1 at Ainsworth. Besides this there are 150 tons of concentrating material which will run five tons into one and average 100 ounces per ton. The management expect to realize a profit of \$1,000 for the company the first month, and thereafter much more, as considerable dead work had to be done the past month.

The Canadian Pacific Mining & Milling Company has completed its wharf at Woodbury Creek, and some 28,000 feet of lumber for a flume have been delivered. The force is busy at present putting in the timbers for the flume and power building. The water wheel and compressor are expected next week, having been shipped from San Francisco some ten days ago. This mine will soon be a shipper, an immense body of ore being in sight.

An English company that proposes to operate in British Columbia mines, has obtained terms for a bond on two claims a few miles from Illecillewaet. The deal will be closed in March.

The Isabella, the richest grey copper claim in Illecillewaet, was worked at a former time, the ore averaging 300 ounces of silver, and some samples running as high as 3,000 ounces to the ton. It belongs to the Lanark Company and five men will be employed on it during the winter.

The asbestos find at Trout Lake has attracted considerable attention from outside, and several letters of inquiry have been received from parties desirous of in-