

## THE TROUT LAKE DISTRICT.

(By R. Leckie-Ewing.)

HAVING SPENT some three months last summer in the vicinity of Trout Lake I availed myself of the opportunity afforded me to gather an idea of the mineral possibilities of this promising section of the province. The information I was then able to obtain I propose now to give, for what it may be worth, to the readers of the MINING RECORD.

Trout Lake City is situated a matter of forty-eight miles southeast of Revelstoke, and is easily accessible from that point via Arrowhead and thence by steam boat to Thompson's Landing. From Thompson's Landing travel to Trout Lake City or to Ferguson,

To the sportsman the district does not, unfortunately, offer many attractions. Bear and cariboo, numerous enough some few years ago, are now very scarce, especially the latter. One may come across bear, both the black and the silver tip variety, however, in the early spring with the assistance of good guides. I tried the fishing on several occasions, both in Trout and in Stobart Lake, but with poor success. There are no fish that will look at a fly; though very large trout are caught with spoon and minnow by trolling. I had the satisfaction of hooking one of these gentry, which weighed no less than eighteen pounds. He was a big ugly fish and showed little fight, but the biggest I have ever caught. Trout Lake itself is a wonderfully beautiful sheet of water—and



The new mining town of Ferguson.

which last is the most convenient centre of the mining territory, is accomplished by stage coach or saddle. Four years ago the sites of these two towns were covered by dense growths of timbers, but of late considerable spaces have been cleared and both Trout Lake and Ferguson now boast of substantial buildings and enterprising, albeit at present, small populations. Considering the natural difficulties which had to be overcome the progress already made in the development of this district is eminently satisfactory. With the completion of the railway to Ferguson, however, there can be no question but that activity in the future will be decidedly more marked. In fact, the great drawback under which the Trout Lake district laboured during the last two or three years has been indifferent and quite inadequate transportation facilities; and the great expense to which mine owners have been put in sending out ore, has naturally acted as a check on all mine development and discouraged capital from exploiting this field.

even in British Columbia noted for the picturesque beauty of its inland waters none, I think, surpass Trout Lake in loveliness; and that is saying a good deal. Its length is about seventeen and its width from one to two miles; and on either side stand out grand snow-clad summits whose slopes from lake shore to timber line are densely clad with conifers. On a bright summer's day, with the sun shining brightly on the water, and lighting up forest, glacier and snowy peak, the effect is almost indescribably grand—and I certainly can hardly hope to do justice to the subject.

But to come to the mines. The Duncan-Lardeau district, although as I have pointed out, its mineral resources are still practically undeveloped, notwithstanding gives promise of becoming one of the richest silver-lead camps in the whole of British Columbia—which is tantamount to saying, the whole of North America. Nature has been very lavish in her distribution of galena veins in this section. These veins