

far as that locality is concerned capital has, rightly or wrongly, received a rude set-back to its high aspirations by the failure of so many companies to renew their obligations on claims under bond. The announcement that a large body of rich ore has again been exposed to the surface of the Two Friends has had a temporary stimulating effect on many, but the reaction for the nonce seems almost to have set in too strongly in the opposite direction, and business houses will be forced to assume proportions more in accordance with the requirements of the place than has been the case hitherto.

The recent shipment of twenty-two tons from the Howard Fraction gave returns of 125 ounces silver and \$19.00 in gold, or a gross value of \$94.00 per ton. While of course this is a very fair average value for the product of any mine, it is really nothing extraordinary when the high costs are here taken into consideration, and in fact is much less than either of the preceeding shipments. The company operating the property, however, express themselves so well pleased with the results that another payment of \$5,000 has been made on the bond. The Meteor, a somewhat similar proposition in the same neighbourhood, owned largely by J. A. Finch, is also preparing to ship; while the Arlington has ore already lying on the dock preparatory to sending to the smelter. The question of a waggon road up Springer Creek does not appear to make much headway, owing, it is supposed, to want of cohesion among the claim owners concerned, but this will doubtless right itself as development becomes further advanced. The Record Office so long expected has come at last, although located in decidedly primitive quarters for an institution of such importance; but after all I suppose this is of little moment compared with the necessity for obviating a trip to New Denver whenever one desires to examine the records. Grading on the railway to Slocan Crossing has now commenced, but it is not proving of so much advantage to the town as many anticipated.

Silverton is still forging ahead and each new discovery gives it a fresh impetus; the Wakefield, one of the most promising mines up the creek is preparing to make a trial shipment, and the returns can hardly fail to be satisfactory to the company operating it.

People in New Denver are fairly excited over a recent discovery a short distance from town; it appears that a prospector from Silverton, wending his way home after a fruitless search, was attracted by evidences of galena displayed in the upturned roots of a fallen tree. Proceeding to investigate with the aid of a pick, he uncovered in a few minutes from four to six inches of magnificent high grade galena, within a foot or so of the surface; the discovery, of course, was the merest accident, as is evidenced by the fact that the ground had been several times previously staked and relinquished as of no value, the presence of so much surface soil rendering systematic prospecting almost impossible. An era of vigorous development has begun at once on the property and it is earnestly hoped may prove an unqualified success for the benefit of the owners and the good of the town.

The assiduously cherished hopes of a waggon road between Three Forks and New Denver appear to be within measurable distance of materializing; over \$5,000 is now available for the purpose and if the people of Three Forks and Sandon contribute to the fund in the same liberal manner that has characterized

those resident here, it should not be long before work on the road is well under way.

The spirit of discontent with existing conditions which has pervaded Sandon ever since it was worthy the name of a town, has at last found expression in the proposal to incorporate without delay; the citizens are overwhelmingly in favour of such a step being taken and application will be made immediately to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council who is empowered to grant incorporation to any town applying for it before September 1st.

The never failing talk of concentrators and tramways to be erected, still continues. The owners of the Ruth now announce their intention to build one of the former in the near future and the way is already cleared for the tramway at the Payne. There can be little doubt, despite temporary local depression, that the Slocan is advancing by leaps and bounds, and is still undoubtedly, from a financial point of view, the banner mining district of British Columbia.

HOWARD WEST.

Golden.

AS your many readers in this part of East Kootenay have been somewhat disappointed that notes of the district have been absent from your columns, I have been asked to send you a brief description of the progress of mining matters about Golden and the surrounding localities.

The prospects in this part of the country have never been better than they are at the present time, and capitalists are at length turning their attention to our mineral resources, the development of which has been so unfortunately mismanaged in the past. Most expert knowledge, backed by ample capital, is proving that this portion of East Kootenay possesses just as great attractions to the prospector and mining investor as any portion of B.C. Prospectors are pressing in from the south, or coming over from West Kootenay, and express themselves as much pleased with the country. They have an immense area of unexplored mountain and valley before them, and every week brings in reports of new discoveries, which only await development to prove their true value. Then, again, we have had visits from several representatives of Eastern and English capital, and several important purchases are recorded. Negotiations have been proceeding for the purchase and operation of the smelter at Golden.

Thanks to the immense interest taken in his work by the Recorder at Golden, F. C. Lang, there is now on view at his office, a complete collection of the known mineral resources of the district, and it has already done good service to prospectors and investors. Mr. Lang has also just issued a prospector's map of the northern portion of East Kootenay. It shows the locations up to the time of its publication, with a marginal index showing the class of ore in each location, the size of each claim, and the nature of the title. It also shows the streams, roads and trails. The map must have cost the compiler an immense amount of work.

There has been unusual activity in the Donald division, many claims having been recorded on the Bluewater, the Blæberry, the Wait-a-bit and up the valley of the Beaver. H. R. Moodie and J. Connor have bonded to the Hammond syndicate, of Toronto, for \$5,000 two claims which they located on the divide between the Clearwater and the Bluewater. The Golden and Fort Steele Development Co. lay claim to these