

has made but little headway here as compared with Trail Creek, but their more general application is only a matter of time, and already the introduction of more than one is being seriously contemplated. One of the features of the year was the attempt made on the part of the Provincial Legislature to levy a two per cent. tax on all mineral raised in the province. As was natural under the circumstances, this induced a vigorous protest from all classes, and none more so than among those in the Slocan who depended solely upon the progress made in mining development for a living.

Experience has shown that the Government pursued the wiser course in amending the bill to its present wording. Forest fires in the summer season are becoming a regular nuisance, not only here, but wherever mining is being carried on in the province, and steps cannot be taken too soon to prevent their recurrence. Stringent laws should be formulated by the Government, and rigidly enforced, or we shall soon be without sufficient timber for conducting mining operations in some quarters, to say nothing of the danger to life and property. The stocking of all kinds of undeveloped claims, although not nearly so prevalent here as at Rossland, is yet beginning to assume serious dimensions, and it would be well for the reputation of this section if the practice were nipped in the bud. No better evidence can be offered as to the satisfactory position which mining now occupies in the Slocan than by referring to the current receipts at the Government office, and when we state that over three thousand dollars were paid in at New Denver alone during the month of July, the vast proportions which it is assuming can be better imagined than described.—Howard West, A.R.S., M.S.C.

Fairview.

HITHERTO the attention of the mining world has been centred upon Rossland and the district adjacent thereto, yet it is conceded by all who know anything of the vast extent of the mineral wealth of British Columbia that numerous other localities bid fair to surpass in richness all the great prospects which have been so prominently before the eyes of the world for some time past. A section of the province, which up to a few months ago, was, in a mining sense, an undiscovered land, but which is surely destined to become world famous as a gold-producing region is Camp Fairview, Okanagan District. It is the purpose of this article to attempt a brief description of the character of the country and mineral wealth of the district.

The Fairview mining district is that lying in the valley of the Okanagan, about twenty-eight miles south of Okanagan Lake. It is reached from the main line of the C.P.R. by a branch line called the Okanagan & Shuswap Railroad, connecting at Sicamous Junction, and running to the head of Okanagan Lake, thence by steamer of the former line for a distance of sixty miles down the line to Penticton, at the southern extremity. Here may be found good hotel accommodation. The waggon road from this point takes one through to the town of Fairview, twenty-eight miles distant. This waggon road is a trunk route through Osoyoos to the United States boundary line, and from it other points are reached, such as the now well-known camps of McKinney, Greenwood, Midway and Boundary Falls. These towns are centres of mining, inaugurated through the success of the ventures

carried on to prospect the varying classes of ores produced in that vicinity.

Fairview is ranked as being among the list of well-known localities as, apart from the encouraging field for mining, the country also offers inducements to settlers from an agricultural point of view. These naturally look to the mines for the consumption of their products, the miner and farmer being mutually benefitted by the advantages of the other.

The district is healthy, the fall of snow being extremely light, with very little frost—so little, in fact, that the Okanagan Lake is open to navigation for the whole year. The district is unlike almost all other portions of the province in that it is not mountainous, the topographical features resembling one huge park of gently rolling hills. There is abundance of timber at hand for mining purposes.

Quartz containing gold was first discovered in 1888, but just then very little was done to explore the find.

The main mineral belt runs east and west, and the ore is distinctly free milling. The veins are believed to be true fissures, the strike regular, invariably showing gänge between the walls, the formation being shistose and dioritic rocks. It is estimated that the ore can be treated for from \$3 to \$5 per ton. Mr. Edward Bluett, a mining man whose name is familiar in many of the Western states, recently visited Camp Fairview, where he is interested in the Silver Crown and Joe Dandy mines. Speaking of the district, Mr. Bluett said: "I just want to say one thing, and that is that though I have been interested in mining in every mineral producing state and territory in the Union, I have never seen any country that begins to 'size up' along with this." "Why," he continued, "you people here don't appear to have grasped the idea that you have the richest country on this green earth."

As was stated in opening, Fairview as a mining district was, until very recently, comparatively an undiscovered land; but it is so no longer—thanks to the enterprise of two well-known residents of Victoria, B.C., W. A. Dier and A. A. Davidson. These gentlemen, with commendable enterprise, did not sit down and "wait for the good times to come," but, as soon as convinced that there was hidden wealth in the rocks of Fairview, invested their money and put men to the work of development.

A few of the principal claims in the district are: Morning Star, Joe Dandy, Comstock, Brown Bear, Silver Crown, Silver Bear, Smuggler, Silver Bow, Stemwinder, Black Diamond and Winchester, on all of which considerable development work in the way of shafts and tunnels has been done. The owners of the Morning Star intend, so it is understood, shortly to erect a stamp-mill. Messrs. Dier and Davidson, of Victoria, who are more largely interested in the district than any others, have acquired control of about twenty-five of the most prominent claims. They have at present fifteen men at work, and expect in the spring to employ at least a hundred men in the work of development on their claims alone. Messrs. Dier and Davidson have also secured 300 acres of townsite property, and those who are in a position to form an accurate opinion of such matters do not hesitate to predict that within two years Fairview will be a city with 20,000 inhabitants.

In consequence of the big strike of rich free milling quartz recently made on the Comstock claim this statement does not seem to be at all extravagant.

Mr. Dier, who recently returned from a trip to