

Friends adjoining sold to one of the large interests, and work is to be resumed on this, one of the best known of the properties in camp.

The Meteor group, at the head of the first North Fork, has been leased, and the first crew gone in to work.

The owners of the Charmer have made a small trial shipment to Nelson.

Besides these there are so many that it would be of no use to try and make a complete list doing more or less development work, and generally with very satisfactory results.

W. D. MCGREGOR.

FISH CREEK DISTRICT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

WITH the low prices for lead and silver, that have prevailed for some time, the free gold camps of the Kootenay have come into greater prominence, and at present there is a noticeable increase in activity both as regards the mines, and also the development work being done on the prospects of this class. Among the camps which have felt this most strongly that on the Fish Creek, in the Lardeau has been the leading one, and at present it is the liveliest camp in the district. The first discovery of free gold in this portion of the Lardeau was in 1899, when a number of claims were located on Fish and Pool Creeks. Among these a number of good properties have been opened up, and are now being operated.

Those on which the most extensive work is being done are the Camborne group, owned by the Northwestern Development Syndicate, Ltd.; the Eva group, owned by the Imperial Development Syndicate, Limited, and the Oyster group, owned by Messrs. Pool & Young and associates.

On the Camborne group the company have installed an electric power plant of 500 horse power, and three power electric drills are now being used to develop the property. The company with this plant is furnishing electric lights for the camp and mine workings, and a line of wires is now being connected with the townsite of Goldfields, which adjoins the group, and has recently been taken over by the syndicate. It is also the intention of the syndicate to generate sufficient power to operate an electric car line for both passenger and freight between Comaplix, which is the head of navigation on Arrow Lake for the camp, and Goldfields. A sawmill with a capacity of 40,000 feet per day, is being built at Goldfields which will supply lumber to the rapidly growing town and the mines. The machinery for a ten-stamp mill and 5,000 feet aerial tram has been shipped and will be installed on the property on arrival. For the purpose of making a thorough test to determine the process of treatment best adapted to the ore a shipment of twelve tons was made to the granite mill five miles west of Nelson. The results obtained were reported as follows:—

Feeder sample assayed (per ton)	\$ 44.00
Recovered by amalgamation	33.07
Recovered by concentration	1.80
Value of concentrates	207.20
Gold bullion recovered (ounces)	25.63
Percentage of total values saved by amalgamation . .	82.7
Percentage of total values saved by concentration . .	4.7
Total recovery (per cent.)	87.4

This mill test was considered as most satisfactory and means much for the Fish River camp. The test has demonstrated that the ore is strictly free milling, and as the ore of the Camborne from which the same shipment was taken is identical with that found on a number of claims on which much development work has been done it would indicate that all that is required for the progress of the camp is development and stamp mills.

The development work done on the Camborne, principally under the superintendence of the managing director of the syndicate, H. Z. Brock, consists of three tunnels, one of which is being driven on the vein to develop the upper claims. It will cut the vein in these to a depth of 2,000 feet and when completed will have a length of considerably over a mile, the surveys showing the distance to be 6,000 feet. This tunnel will have a double track, and electric cars will be used in hauling ore to the mill which is being erected at the mouth.

On the Eva group on which the first discovery of gold was made in the district active development has been carried on for two years, resulting in over 2,000 feet of underground workings. This development has blocked out many thousands of tons of free milling ore. The lead is from 100 to 150 feet wide, and the ore shoots occur on either wall with numerous cross fissures from wall to wall, which carry high values. There is also a large tonnage of high grade ore on the dump, which was taken out in development work only. The Eva is splendidly situated for cheap mining and milling. A tunnel 3,000 feet long driven from the mill site at the foot of the mountain on the lead would tap the upper workings at a depth of 2,000 feet vertically. The Oyster group adjoins the Eva and like it and the Camborne carries free milling gold on all the claims. On the Criterion claim especially, one of the group, the surface showings are wonderfully rich. Another feature of this claim is a ledge of galena which increases from 18 inches in width at the surface to three feet at twenty feet.

The Wide West, Beatrice and Iron Dollar groups are also situated in this district and are being rapidly opened up.

The formation throughout is a micaschist, with frequent intrusions of porphyry dykes. There are plenty of streams of water power on nearly all the claims. The camp is situated about 100 miles from Nelson and is reached from Comaplix on Arrow Lake. A road eighteen miles in length is the only means of getting in from Comaplix to the camp at present, but it is expected that an electric line will be put in as soon as the development of the camp warrants it.

YMIR DISTRICT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

THE most disastrous forest fire within the recollection of residents in West Kootenay is now raging on Wild Horse Creek and has inflicted incalculable damage on mining property in that section. The principal sufferers are the Ymir, Blackcock and Wilcox companies. The Ymir Company were extremely fortunate in saving their cyanide plant which was entirely surrounded by the flames and only saved by the vigorous efforts of the crew who were working for their own salvation as well as for the company's property. As it was, many private residences of employees and many thousand cords of cut cordwood belonging to the company have been destroyed. At the Blackcock mine, all the buildings were consumed and the resident families of Messrs. Julien and Andet were forced to take refuge in the tunnel, to which also all the portable household property was removed.

The next property to suffer was the Wilcox mine, which lost all its buildings including a large new frame building which had just been completed. A number of men had just started on the construction of the new aerial tramway, but fortunately only a few timbers had been formed, so that the loss is much less than if the fire had occurred a little later. The men here were also forced to take refuge in the tunnels, and a number of them had a narrow escape, the first sets of timbers in one of the tunnels used as a refuge igniting and nearly suffocating the imprisoned men.

In the same neighbourhood the Roanoke Camp and the sawmill belonging to the Ymir Company were completely destroyed, while in a different direction the buildings of the Tamara Company, together with the upper terminal and towers of the aerial tramway shared the same fate.

The main wagon road up Wild Horse, together with the branch roads to the Ymir, Wilcox and Foghorn mines, were rendered quite impossible, all the bridges and most of the road cribbing being destroyed. The Government, however, already has a gang of men repairing the damage. One of the chief items of loss is the quantity of valuable mining timber which has been consumed. The Ymir, Blackcock, Wilcox and Foghorn companies had all purchased blocks of timber land, a large proportion of which have been swept by the flames to such an extent that only a few blackened stumps remain.

The Wilcox Company will at once rebuild a large and more commodious set of frame buildings, and the work of construction of the aerial tramway has already been recommenced. As soon as the tramway is completed, regular shipments of the rich ore from the Fourth of July vein will be commenced.

Reports from the Big Four group, owned by the British Lion Company, Ltd., are very encouraging. Mr. A. A.