

required for our use has to be transported from other places at considerable expense.

Ten years ago and later quite a number of mineral locations were taken up in the vicinity of Donald and on many of the claims considerable money was expended. On the Wait-a-bit River work was carried on extensively for some time. For the convenience of the miners a wagon road was built for four miles, which was paid for by Mr. Lukes, Sheriff Redgrave, and Mr. Kavanagh. Excellent prospects in gold and silver were found, but the great cry of West Kootenay put a stop to work for a time as the miners left for that locality. However, the time will come, I venture to say, when near by and for many miles around rich mines will be located. It is known that on the Wait-a-bit River and more especially on the Black Water River, a few miles from Donald, excellent placer mines exist which will shortly be worked to advantage. It is a country rich in minerals and will richly pay the explorer if he is interested in mines.

About twenty mineral claims have been recorded on Porcupine Creek about fifteen miles from Donald, which are gold bearing ledges, and on Quartz Creek twelve miles from Donald, which empties into the Columbia River, claims are located rich in gold. Eighteen miles from Donald valuable gold ledges have been found and it is anticipated that extensive fields will be discovered will be equal, if not superior, to some of our best mines in other parts of B. C.

Being confined, as it were, in my statements to Donald, in sending you these few lines, I cannot fully enter into some localities although they are as near to Donald as to other places, that is, if one could cross the mountains. However, I will conclude by mentioning the Spallumcheen country where a large amount has been spent for many years in the development of mines, some of which are known to be valuable and rich, viz.: the Rothschild and the Jones mine adjoining. The latter has been worked for months by William McNish & Jones and is proving a rich and valuable copper mine with vast silver leads, the copper assaying as high as 75 per cent., a carload of which will soon be ready for smelting. In these claims also assays of gold have been \$56 to the ton and silver 35 per cent., with lead, etc. In this direction an excellent bismuth mine has been developed, owned by Messrs. Dainard, Low, and Sheriff Redgrave. On Jubilee Mountain are located the Lancaster, Silver King, Mountain Daisy, and many other claims. The Silver King and the Mountain Daisy assay in some instances \$800 silver to the ton and are owned by Messrs. Redgrave and A. W. Vowell, crown grants covering the same. The Lancaster has shipped rock (copper) to Swansea. In time these mines will be looked after and worked by capitalists when convinced that they are valuable properties, but at present for the want of capital very little development is carried on.

[NOTE.—Mr. Redgrave, who kindly supplied us with the foregoing items, is a man widely known, not on the Pacific Coast alone, but throughout the broad Dominion. He has been for many years Sheriff of Kootenay; was a pioneer of Cariboo 34 years ago; has travelled extensively in Africa and the gold fields of Australia;

was an officer of police in the City of Toronto for years. In January, 1862, he conceived the idea of making an overland journey to British Columbia and carried that idea out. All the information he could get, which was very meagre at that date, he communicated to others, and showed them that in spite of all obstacles the Pacific Coast could and should be reached. In April of the same year different parties were formed which went by way of Chicago and St. Paul, across the Minnesota plains by stage, and down the Red River to Winnipeg. At Winnipeg, or what was then known as old Fort Garry, horses and provisions were purchased and the journey commenced by way of Edmonton, thence through the Rockies by Jasper and Yellowhead Passes; some landing at Quesnelle and others going by the Thompson to Kamloops. Innumerable hardships were met with and overcome, but on the plains it was a pleasant trip, game and buffalo being met with in hundreds of thousands. The dreary march through the Rockies required great strength and determination to reach the journey's end, and it was a great undertaking in those days as the time occupied was over six months. Most of the overlanders were successful in their different undertakings, some at this day being rich men and members of the Dominion Parliament. Mr. Redgrave may well look back with pride to this the first and last overland journey inaugurated by himself and ended by landing amongst us some of our most prominent men. We are



MAIN STREET, PORT STEELE, B. C.

in hopes that on some other occasion we may have the pleasure of receiving many items of the journey, coupled with the names of his hardy and brave companions who can always look back with pride to their six months journey through a then almost unknown country.]

Lardeau District.

THIS district adjoins the Trout Lake District on the north-west and is likely to prove one of the first annual producers in West Kootenay. The ledges are of immense size, some being over fifty feet in width with good surface showings, and are traceable for miles in length.