

THE AURIFEROUS QUARTZ DEPOSITS OF SOUTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(Written for the B. C. Mining Record by J. D. Kendall.)

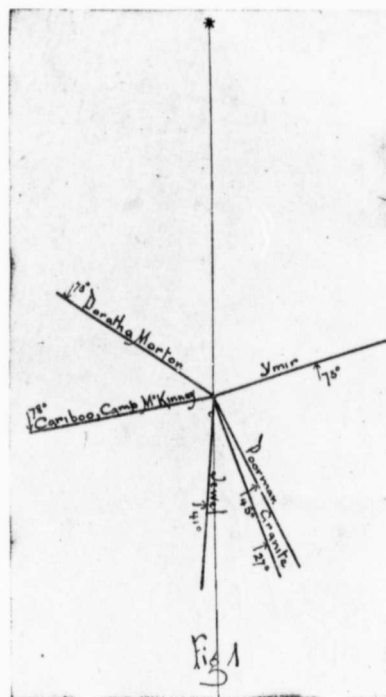
BRITISH COLUMBIA possesses valuable deposits of this character, but, hitherto, very few of them have been worked with either energy, capacity or adequate capital. A number have been operated in a small unworkmanlike way, for stock purposes, but these should not be considered as mining ventures — for really they are not — and therefore their failure is no reflection on this division of the mineral resources of the Province.

The chief hindrance to the development of deposits of this class in B. C. has been lack of capital. Unfortunate British investors will, on reading this, probably exclaim "What has become of all our money? We have subscribed to numerous British Columbia mining enterprises at different times, but in only a few instances have we been successful." By way of anticipation let me say that relatively little British money has been lost in auriferous quartz mining, and even that little must be debited to bad management or something worse rather than to lack of opportunity. Strange as it may seem, the losses that have been incurred by investors from this side of the Atlantic were in connection with minerals and districts out of which Americans have made large sums of money. I have in a previous *communication, pointed out why the latter are often successful where Englishmen fail, and I would here further remark that British Columbia, as a field for British mining investment, stands on quite a different footing from other important fields, such as Australia and New Zealand or even South Africa. In these the English investor has matters very much his own way, but in B. C. it is not so. There he has to compete with the American who had the important advantage of being first in the Province, is always on the spot, and who, besides, is keener commercially, though less thorough technically, than the Englishman. If we are to survive in such a struggle for existence we must improve our commercial methods. We must not send men out to purchase mining properties who are utterly ignorant of mining, as we have done. We must not buy on vendor's reports, as we have done. We must not build mills and smelters, when we have not sufficient money in hand or at command for mine development, as we have done. We must not build mills before we have a mine, nor leave the selection of treatment processes to men who are mill builders only, as we have done. We must not send out to manage properties, men in whom we have so little confidence that they are little more than puppets worked from this end, as we have done. Even if it be from a School of Mines. Mining can only be learned in the mine although a knowledge of it is more rapidly and thoroughly reached if the preliminary training has been of the right kind. We must pay more attention to mining and less to the share market, think more of dividends earned from the sale of mineral and less of those realized by the manipulation of stocks. The man who says "Oh, damn dividends, I want a quicker way of making money than that," will probably disagree with the last remark, but for the benefit of the community, it should never be forgotten that in stock transactions money simply changes hands — " 'twas mine, 'tis his "—whilst by the opening up of a mineral deposit which can be worked at a profit, new wealth is created and the country, as well as the shareholders, to that extent benefitted.

To some it may seem as if several of the errors above

alluded to are technical rather than commercial. In certain cases the final and decisive error is technical, no doubt, but the initial and controlling mistake is commercial as, for instance, in the selection of an incompetent manager who, when installed, acts in ignorance, or regardless, of regular recognized methods.

But to return to the alleged neglect of auriferous quartz mining. The successful mines of British Columbia, speaking generally, have been largely developed by men of small capital. In order to make the little money they had go as far as possible, they confined their attention to deposits yielding mineral that could be marketed without treatment, so that all the ore got in development was at once converted into money, to assist in further development. In this way Le Roi, War Eagle, Payne, Ruth, Idaho and Whitewater were



developed, as well as many others that might be named. Auriferous quartz veins were more or less neglected because their product must be milled before it can be sent to the market and therefore a much larger capital is needed to work them than in the case of high-grade silver-lead or gold-copper, sufficient in fact for both development and equipment. This is the only reason for the past comparative neglect of the deposits under consideration, by the class of men who have done so much toward opening up the silver-lead deposits of the Slokan. Capital properly expended has an extensive and profitable field of operations in the auriferous quartz deposits of British Columbia.

THE EARLIER LOCATIONS.

The first claims of any importance that appear upon record are the Cariboo and Amelia, located in the district now known as Camp McKinney. The former claim was recorded on the 3rd May, 1887, by A. McKinney and F. Rice, the latter on the same day by W.

* Southern British Columbia, as it appeals to and affects the Prospector and Miner, the Speculator and Investor.