

TRAIL CREEK DIVISION, OR ROSSLAND.

Since the writing of the last report (August, 1896) on this district, some important events have occurred, and while no other paying mines have yet been developed, "persistent, plucky development work, sustained by ample capital," is now being done on several properties with very encouraging results, and extensive operations will soon be begun on other claims, work that should definitely determine the existence, or not, of other ore bodies in this camp.

A great many people have been attracted to Rossland, where a large, well-built town has sprung up as in a night. Prices for all kinds of mining claims in this vicinity became for a time abnormally high if such had rusty-stained rock with a little pyrites (and such can be found almost anywhere here), erroneously called "iron-capping," that promised "high values in depth." Many companies were formed and a few thousand dollars of treasury stock sold, but this proving entirely inadequate to do other than a few hundred feet of work, without discovering ore or proving up a "mine," a great number of these companies have collapsed entirely. Nothing more will be heard of them, and their claims, such as seem to possess merit, will pass into other hands.

As in every other mining centre of prominence, Rossland had to suffer for a time from the selfish machinations of the "wildcatter" and unprincipled boomster, the public at large swallowing nearly everything that was offered them, the phenomenal rise in value of the Le Roi stock from a few cents a share to dollars proving an irresistible bait. The re-action speedily came, and most of this bubble speculation disappeared. The result was a sudden rebound from feverish activity and speculation to quietness; but this camp has at last settled down to a more business-like basis, and as work increases, and likewise the pay-roll, so, proportionately, will be its prosperity from now on.

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