

any other."

His report, which is addressed to the qualified to know. Hon. Col. Baker, minister of mines, is These districts de summarized as follows:

returned. I wish to acknowledge again the indebtedness to the mining men for their continued assistance, by which I have been enabled to make this report

examine many of the mining properties, mines, etc., being appended. but to have before me a copy of the smelter returns of nearly all the ore

Every endeavor possible was made to visit as many as possible of the lead-ing properties within the time available, given concerning mere prospects, exami-mation was mostly confined to these claims on which more or less work had been done, and on which underground

that during the past year the attention to of mining men and capitalists from all parts of the world has been drawn to British Columbia, and many have been here and bought mining property, or will return next year to seek investment, for which this province without perad-venture now offers most favorable and Avantageous opportunities. The mining industry of British Col-

umbia, it must be remembered, apart from the placer gold and coal mining, is of very recent inception. Until eight or nine years ago the great extent of the mountainous country south of the Candian Pacific railway to the boundary line, was a wilderness known to few the Indians and hunters, diggings, but the finding of silver-copper are on Toad mountain, and the begin-ming of work on the silver-lead ore de-posits on the east of Kootenay lake, discovered many years ago by men in the Hudson Bay company's employ, with the subsequent discovery among the mountains near by of other silver ledges,

equal to the expectations of those best

These districts described in this bulletin, being essentially silver-bearing

Summarized as follows: Siz:—I beg leave to present, in bulle-tin No. 3 of the bureau of mines, a de-scription of the mines and mining indus-try in the Slocan, Nelson and Ainsworth mining divisions of West Kootenay, from the examination of which I have lately the examination of which I have lately

of much more value, by reason of the cerning the three districts examined, fact that not only have I been able to further details and descriptions of the

The Slocan.

The Slocan, according to the number walues of the ore from the different mines herein given are known to be corthe province, and in point of importance

is not surpassed by any other. In an area of 15 by 25 miles there have but even then some important mines were not seen. In every direction new claims were being opened up, but, as midom satisfactory information can be grade silver-lead ore, which are being developed with great vigor and success, and among the mining men is every feeling of confidence and hopefulness. This winter nearly fifty of these proper-ties are shipping high grade ore that yields very profitable returns, and a large number of other claims are being

conditions could be studied. The fame of the large and unique sold-bearing deposits of Rossland has now spread far afield, with the result now spread far afield, with the result the case of nearly every mine now estab-the case of nearly every mine now estab-lished sufficient money has been real-lished sufficient money has been real-lished sufficient money has been real-Correspondence Solicited. References: ment to pay for more extensive work-ings, new buildings, mills, trails, roads and also dividenc's, but more or less capital will be required to properly open up many other claims on which the veins exist, but are not so easily accessi-

ble as those first discovered. But as most of these veins are found along the REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE

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British Columbia Gold

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The property consists of two full claims, the Fisher Maiden and Silverton No. 2. These claims are situated on Four Mile creek in the Slocan district, about eight miles from Silver-

+} ton. A good trail leads from Silverton (on Slocan lake) to the mine. A wagon road covering the same route will be built in the spring. The property is very high grade in silver and the Fisher Maiden is already a shipping mine. There are now 200 tons of ore in transit and on the dump. Assays made by J. M. M. Benediun on Nov. 23 gave: No. 1, 330 oz. silver per ton; No. 2, 205 oz. silver per ton. Assays made recently by Robbins & Long gave: No. 1, 386 oz. silver, 56 per cent. lead; No. 2, 428 oz. silver, 1.5 per cent copper.

Ore body averages 15 inches in width. Prospectus of company can be seen at their office in the Stussi Block, Rossland.

Red Top Mountain

STOCKS. All individual stock is pooled for seven months. Address for further



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signalized the commencement of mining in Kootenay. But it was not until 1890-91 that these silver veins were beginning to attract mining men to this province from abroad, and active operations were getting well under way despite the diffi-culties and great cost of bringing in supplies or transporting ore to the smelters, when all progress was for a time stopped and hopes crushed by the sudden col-Lapse in silver values, occasioned by the closing of the Indian mints to the free J. WHITE, President. coinage of this metal. Work, neverthless, on some of the

work, neverthess, on some of the reins was persevered in, and in 1894 nearly \$650,000 worth of silver ore was sent out of Kootenay. Then better means of communication were provided, and in 1895 the production of the different kinds of silver ore increased to over \$1,000,000, which production has been doubled in 1896.

Meanwhile the gold-bearing pyrrhotite deposits on Trail creek were being ex-ploited under many vicissitudes, until the shipments of pay ore, in 1894, to the value of \$75,000, and of nearly ten times this amount in 1895, from the large ore bodies of the Le Roi and War Eagle, commanded wide-spread interest by rea-son of its being gold ore and very profitable, and in 1896 has been seen a great influx of capital's representatives and mining men, who are not only securing gold properties, but are investing in silver as well.

The production of the Kootenay mines, when compared with many of the mining centers in other countries, will not appear so very large to a casual reader, but when the conditions are un-derstood, that an entirely new country of large territorial extent is being rapidly opened up under difficulties, that the supply of needed capital, until recently, cient development to put it on a really proper basis for extraction of ore and further exploratory work, this production will then be seen to indicate a most fiourishing and hopeful condition of

affairs. As to the future there is no doubt but that the number of paying mines and the mine out-put will steadily increase in the districts to be described, but not with that extravagant rate of increase predicted by some-at least not until those conditions exist that will permit the extraction of a much greater tonnage of ore. Such conditions are being supplied, and judging from the shipments



