

gold, crossed the border, and penetrated the wilds of British Columbia, with the result of the gold excitement of the early days, in the Smilkameen, in the Big Bend of the Columbia, and later, in 1864, the unprecedented gold rush of the Cariboo. The old placers are too well known to need our dilating on them at length. Little or no thought was given in those days to the industry of quartz mining, nor till a much later date. About 1875, the Dominion Government had exploring parties out in British Columbia making general reports on the country. Mr. Moberley, C.E., who has resided of late years in Vancouver, was one of these explorers, and about 1878 discovered galena in what is now known as the Slocan district. In his report to the Government he mentioned these, and in consequence some small amount of work was done in the ensuing year by the Government. In the Smilkameen Camp, some work was done about the same time, or a few years later, on a copper ledge, but

DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES.

A great want is felt just now of good substantial development companies, to take hold of the many undeveloped prospects in the Province.

The average prospector is a very poor man, who cannot afford to do much of this class of work himself, and the average British Columbian did not come out here because he was overburdened with wealth and wanted a change of air, but are of the "Young-man-go-west" sort, and there is not capital available here which can be put out for two or three years without being missed. To make a success, a company should obtain, at least, twelve claims to work on, and these should be chosen with the greatest care, and obtained on the lowest terms possible. I do not mean that the prospector, who has gone to considerable expense and risk, should be squeezed; but that fair valuation be made of the property, in comparison with similar ones



LITTLE BILLY, TEXADA ISLAND, B. C.

in those days, there was no means of getting the ore out, and it was not until Joe Buchoir, staked the Le Roi Mine, in 1890, that anything but placer mining obtained any prominence, and only within the past seven years has any amount of development been done along this line, and, until four years ago, the difficulties of getting the ore from the mines to railroad communication, and the distance to smelting points, were so great, as almost to preclude their working on anything like a paying basis. Now, however, the Canadian Pacific and Great Northern have pushed their lines into the principal centres, and, as new ones crop up and show signs of value and permanency, lines are being run in. The Government of the Province has, within the past three years, been opening up connection with these from the individual camps and trails to the various claims. Smelters are being erected at central points and the country is in a position to interest capital. The mineral resources are indubitable and almost everywhere, where man has penetrated. Those belts which are of real and permanent value have now been more or less determined and proved.

which are developed in the neighborhood, and that no more cash should be paid than will compensate the man for his risks and expenditure until sufficient be done, in some degree, to prove the property. Deposits should be made to cover all engagements, and everything done to give the prospector (who is naturally of a suspicious nature, having been considerably "had" in the past) faith in the people he is dealing with, and he should be given an option to work on the property himself, when at all competent to do so, and no properties should be tied up or bonded on which it is not fully intended to do work. Large groups should not be taken hold of in one vicinity. There have been many Development Companies in British Columbia, and there are still a few in existence, whose main aim and object seems to have been, either to get hold of properties on bond, at nominally very high figures, really paying only small sums for them, and float them for still larger ones on the London market or else to carry on business on the following lines:—

1. To open up big and elaborate offices;
2. To gather together as many as possible of their friends and relations, who know nothing at all about mining, or