

GRAND FORKS MINING DIVISION.

Report of S. R. Almond, Gold Commissioner.

INCLUDED in the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines for 1905 is the following information concerning the Grand Forks mining division:

Through the courtesy of Mr. Martin Burrell, editor of the *Grand Forks Gazette*, who has covered almost all the ground in this division, I am enabled to furnish the greater part of the following report:—

WELLINGTON CAMP, ON HARDY MOUNTAIN.

The valuable and practical results in the smelting of low-grade ores by the Granby Co. necessarily stimulates development work on all properties in the district, and in the Betts & Hesperus group, situated on the southwest of Hardy Mountain and only three miles from the city of Grand Forks, we find a property which is fast coming to the shipping stage. The Betts & Hesperus was originally located in 1896 by E. E. Alexander, of Spokane, then passed into the hands of Campbell & Finch of the same place, and was finally acquired by the present owners, who organised the Betts & Hesperus Mining Co. in February, 1903.

The Betts & Hesperus ore is a sulphide copper ore somewhat similar in character to the big low-grade bodies of the Phoenix district. Previous to the time when the present company took hold of the property, about \$5,000 worth of development work had been done, and during the past three years something like \$50,000 has been expended in surface exploration of the ore-bodies. For the first two seasons a large amount of surface work was done, first by an open cut 100 ft. long, and subsequently by other systematic efforts to prove the extent and direction of the ore-body. The results were sufficiently satisfactory to induce Supt. Rea to advise the directors to authorise the driving of a tunnel to tap the ore at depth. This was commenced in February, 1905, and at the present time is in 825 ft., an amount of work which has been done at an exceedingly economical figure. This gives a depth of 375 ft. below the surface showings, and the latter stages of the work have been evidently in the main ore-body.

When 575 ft. in on the tunnel, cross-cutting was commenced into a fine shoot of pyrrhotite ore, which is evidently a big body. So good a showing is it that a contract of a favourable character is now pending with the Granby Co. for all the ore taken out of this particular shoot. The management is so well satisfied with the results obtained that the step has been taken of contracting with the Spokane Diamond Drill Co. to do at least 1,000 ft. of work in further testing the capacity of the property. The drill will be in shape to commence operations early next month.

It is gratifying to know that the directors are thoroughly satisfied with the nature of their property and with the result of the work already accomplished. President Magee, who was out for his third visit this summer, spoke enthusiastically of the prospects, not only of the Betts & Hesperus but of the whole district, and we shall see with pleasure this property

join the list of shipping mines, and swell not only the pockets of the company, but the prosperity of the immediate district.

The Wolfard, not far from the Betts & Hesperus mineral claims, in Wellington camp, has had 120 ft. of tunnelling and 1,000 ft. of diamond drill work done upon it during the year 1905. A cook-house, 16 by 30 ft., and a bunk-house, 16 by 20 ft., have been built on the claim in the same period. The tunnel is all in ore, the general values ranging about \$5. There are about 3,000 tons of ore on the dump. The diamond drill cut through 384 ft. of ore, 44 ft. of which showed an average value of \$8 and the balance ranging from \$5 to \$6. Beside the above there is a tunnel 55 ft. long, one shaft 54 ft. and another 28 ft. deep, beside considerable work in prospecting cuts.

The Kate, adjoining the Wolfard and owned by the same parties, has a shaft 15 ft. deep in ore and an open cut 50 ft. long by 10 ft. deep and 6 ft. wide, to show for the year's work. These properties at present are owned by A. L. Rogers, of Grand Forks, and Vert A. Wolfard, of Spokane, but in the near future will be under the management of a company, said to be now forming to take over the group.

Yankee Boy and Yankee Girl.—Formerly owned by McGregor & Spraggett, the group of properties comprising the Yankee Boy, Yankee Girl and Belle, is also situated on Hardy Mountain, and within one mile of the city limits of Grand Forks. In 1899 the owners bonded and sold the property to Major Leckie, and it is at present owned by Montreal men. It is a quartz, carrying gold and silver, ranging as high as \$220 to the ton. Considerable development work has been done, and several profitable shipments were made prior to 1900, since which time the property has been idle.

UP THE NORTH FORK.

The north fork of Kettle River is the district to which eyes have been turned as likely to provide the biggest camp in Southern British Columbia.

The first mineral properties of any note are struck about eight miles up on the east side of the river, viz., the French and English group of seven or eight claims. This property is owned by a company, of which Hay & McCallum are the principal holders. The ore is galena, and about 100 ft. of development work by tunnel and shaft has been done.

Next comes a group of four claims, all ready to be Crown-granted, owned by Captain Bentley, of Grand Forks. These are situated between Volcanic Mountain and the river. On the northerly claim is a quartz, carrying free gold. The greater part of the properties exhibits a lime and iron capping, and, where stripped in three different places to a depth of 25 ft. exposes an excellent quality of iron ore, sulphide in character, and freely studded with chalcopryite. Of the assays taken, the average sample runs \$15 to the ton.

Golden Eagle.—The Golden Eagle, about 12 miles up, is a property which has had a lot of development work done, and which only awaits the advent of transportation to be further developed. This is owned by the Royal Victoria Mining Co., John Fox having been