

are a number of other veins, most of them recently discovered, on which contracts have already been let to do development work, and, from surface showings, will probably be as good or better than the place where the 100-foot shaft is being sunk. These properties also control the waters of Kirk Lake, some thirty acres in extent, which will give all the necessary power; and as the ore is free milling, the gold can be extracted at very little expense."

On the Lorindale claim, about one-quarter of a mile distant from the Victoria, they have struck ore very rich in free gold on the surface. Shafts have been sunk on two other veins on this property, and further development work should make a mine.

This portion of the island seems to be rich in minerals, principally sulphide ores carrying gold, silver, copper, iron and a small amount of galena, with veins varying in width of from one to six feet; and from the systematic way in which some of the properties are being developed, it may not be long before Texada will be known as one of the principal gold-producing camps of the province.

Rossland.

WE have on several occasions referred to the early days of Rossland, and need not at this time recapitulate the incidents relating thereto more than to say that the town is not really two years old. Although the townsite was surveyed in 1894 it was not until March, 1895, that the place took its real start. Previous to that date there seemed to be some uncertainty whether it or some other site would be the future metropolis of the Trail Creek mining district. Now all doubt on that point is set at rest, and Rossland is acknowledged on all sides to be the coming great city of Southern Kootenay. The building of the narrow-gauge line of the Columbia and Western road to Trail gave it the first railway connection with the outside world, and now the Red Mountain (broad-gauge) is completed into it. The want of sufficient transportation facilities has been a great drawback to Rossland and the mines in its vicinity, but a new era of railway development has begun and there is every reason to expect that within the next two years it will become the central point of several important lines. Not only will the Crow's Nest Pass Railway have connection with Rossland, but a direct road from there to the Pacific Coast is on the tapis. The Canadian Pacific, which already has connection by means of the Columbia River steamers to Trail, the Northern Pacific and Great Northern systems are not likely to allow their interests to be overlooked in a camp of so much importance, so that the view we take of Rossland becoming in the near future a great railway centre is well founded. At the present moment a gigantic scheme is on foot to drive a tunnel through Red Mountain, a distance of 5,000 feet, with a sufficient width to allow of two electric railway tracks. This will give a more expeditious and economical outlet for the ore of the camp. The advantages of such a scheme to the mines in the vicinity are incalculable, especially in the matter of expense in handling the ore, and it is satisfactory to note that there is every likelihood of the enterprise being carried through to completion.

Until a few weeks ago the telegraph facilities of Rossland were quite inadequate for the business, but now the Canadian Pacific and Western Union systems

have established communication and opened offices in the town, and a movement is on foot to open a telephone line to Spokane, which, if carried out, will be a great advantage to mining men and others.

No town in British Columbia is so liberally supplied with newspapers as Rossland, there being no less than four journals published there—the *Record*, *Miner*, *Rosslander* and the *Review*. The first named has the honour of being the pioneer paper, it having been established on the 14th February, 1895, and to it also belongs the credit of having brought out the first daily on June 22nd of this year. The *Miner* now publishes a daily edition with full telegraphic dispatches, so that Rossland, a town not quite two years old, can boast of having two daily and four weekly papers—a pretty good record for so short a time.

A Board of Trade, composed of the leading business men, has been organized, and is in full running order, but, strange to say, Rossland to-day is not incorporated. It is still nursed in the lap of the Government, and is obliged to depend upon the private enterprise of the people and whatever aid it can obtain from the Provincial authorities for its improvements. This unsatisfactory state of affairs will, however, be remedied immediately and incorporation applied for at the approaching session of the legislature.

Recently a very efficient system of electric lighting was established, and the town is well supplied with water. The sanitary condition, too, has been carefully looked into during the past year and placed in a more satisfactory state than it was at the beginning of the season. The climate resembles somewhat that of Toronto, there being a short period of hot and sultry weather during the summer, with a delightful autumn lasting well into December. The fall of snow is at times heavy, but the thermometer rarely goes below zero, while thaws and rains may be expected at any time during the winter.

Although building operations have been carried on actively during the past year the progress of the town in this respect has been retarded by the locking up of large railway additions, which however are now being placed on the market. This will result in a better class of buildings being erected, and brick and stone will take the place of wood in the construction of most of them. Already a start has been made in brick—a fine hotel and opera house being in course of erection. Above the town a level plateau, which is now covered with mere shacks, will soon boast of handsome blocks and level, well-paved streets. One wealthy Eastern syndicate lately purchased over 800 lots in the town, and as a large number of these will be placed on the market immediately, it is reasonable to expect that there will be a regular building boom in Rossland during 1897.

With incorporation will come many benefits which Rossland does not enjoy fully at the present time. Its fire protection, street grading, sewerage, and police force will be on a better footing. It speaks well, however, for the people of Rossland that up to now one solitary policeman has been sufficient to preserve order. As the town grows a regular police force will be necessary, and the providing of this will of course be one of the outcomes of incorporation.

Rossland is surrounded on all sides by gold mines, many of which have already demonstrated their great value. The past year has been, however, one of development rather than production, but at this time of writing there are actually fourteen mines which may be called shippers. The names of these are Le Roi,