

unopened country for most of the distance, but one which has already shown great promise of being rich in mineral. Game is plentiful and feed for pack animals abundant. Hay can, therefore, be cut and stored to provide fodder for horses during winter months. The government are assisting the opening of this great interior highway by re-building the Moberly trail from Donald to Canoe River. Thence it is open prairie country, and easy to travel. It is likely that there will be a great rush of prospectors through this country as soon as the snow goes and the country is accessible by the completion of the trail referred to.

There appear to be excellent placer prospects in this northern country, as a party leaving Golden recently for Cummins Creek (which flows out of the Rockies about sixty miles beyond Donald) report having found gold in all the prospect holes which they sunk, twelve in number, but owing to the quantity of water, the party, not having the means to contend with this difficulty, abandoned the work for the time being. The existence of gold, however, in paying quantities in this locality was sufficiently demonstrated. The limestone of the Rockies here changes to slate, and numerous quartz veins crossing the country are traceable, although there has been little prospecting.

Actual mining operations also promise to be brisk this season. The coming mine of the district is undoubtedly the Bennison, and it has been so highly developed that regular ore shipments will certainly follow as soon as communication is established with the outside. While the owners of this mine were prepared to contribute handsomely they do not see their way to assuming the entire cost of the road up the Beaver Valley, seeing that this road will be so much a work of general public benefit, opening up several mines as prospective shippers. The importance of having a good shipping mine in this part of the country cannot be over-estimated, and it would be a thousand pities if such a promising property as the Bennison should lie idle for want of some reasonable consideration on the part of the Provincial Government.

It is stated that the Vancouver Finance and Development Company propose to put a diamond drill on their copper properties at Jubilee Mountain. Mr. Henry Croft of Victoria, is also heavily interested here. The development work so far has revealed marvellously rich specimens of copper, but the results have not yet been satisfactory from a permanent mining point of view, and the only effective means of prospecting these deposits is undoubtedly by means of the diamond drill. Development work will also be steadily prosecuted in the Bluewater and Ottertail districts.

It is encouraging to see investors paying more attention to this district, a syndicate having purchased the Burns mine, on the Middle Fork of the Spillimachene. There is a five-stamp mill on this property, and the new owners propose to operate the mine during the present season, but it will be necessary to put in a cyanide plant to save the gold more effectually than was done when the mill was operated on a former occasion.

The large copper deposits on Horsethief Creek will be developed this season by Mr. Rutherford, of Vancouver, and the English Company represented by W. G. Mitchell-Innes. The galena deposits on Toby Creek are about to be opened up by the British Pacific Company of Victoria. It is also stated that a Scotch company has been formed to work the big galena deposits on the Bugaboo. The Bald Mountain Company propose to work their property this season, or dispose of it to a Development Company which has offered to take it under a working bond.

A new assaying institution has been established at Calgary under the management of Mr. W. C. Howard, who possesses high English and German qualifications.

The North-East Kootenay Miners' Association has been very active since its formation in November last. The meetings are held monthly, and great interest has been taken in the proceedings, which have so far mainly been confined to the consideration of desirable amendments of the Mineral Act, and suggestions to the Government Agent as to the most necessary trail works.

The indefatigable Mining Recorder at Golden, Mr. F. C. Lang, is not satisfied with the already fine collection of the ores of the district that he has made for exhibition at the Government Office, but he has obtained authority to erect enlarged show cases, and he is increasing the collection in such a way that without going out of the town of Golden the visitor can obtain a first-class idea as to the different ores of the district, and its resources as a whole.

The ores of the north-east Kootenay are mainly of the yellow metals, which are most in demand at the present time. Gold and copper, and this probably accounts for the keener and more active demand for properties that has been experienced here of late.

FORT STEELE DISTRICT.

Persistent rumours are afloat to the effect that an English syndicate desires to secure the famous East Kootenay mine, the North Star. Whether there is any truth in these reports or not, it is certain that capital, both English and American, is being invested heavily in East Kootenay at the present time. Recently a group of eleven claims, on Magic Lake, and forming a part of what is known as the St. Eugene Group, were sold to a Chicago syndicate for a considerable consideration, and extensive operations will be commenced to develop the properties. Placer mining is also likely to become an important industry in this district. On Wild Horse Creek the Invicta Gold Mining Company, the Nip & Tuck company, the International Placer Mining Company, Brewery Creek Placer Company, Jennings & Polson Company, McMillan & Co., and three Chinese companies are actively engaged.

About 90 locations have been made on the North Fork of St. Mary's River. The ore carries gold, silver and copper, and the ore belt is well defined.

On Mark Creek, in the silver lead belt of the Selkirks, are the North Star group of 22 claims and 80 other locations on the south side, and on the north the Sullivan group and about 80 other locations, making 160 altogether. The ore is fine grained galena assaying from 40 to 60 oz. in silver and from 50 to 65 per cent. lead.

PUBLICATIONS.

CANADA'S METALS, by Prof. Roberts-Austin, London; Macmillan & Co., 1898, 8vo, Pp. 46, (Price, 2s. 6d.) The publication of a volume on this subject by so eminent an authority as Prof. Roberts-Austin, is in itself somewhat of a tribute to the prominence that is now being given to Canadian mining affairs. The book will undoubtedly assist in drawing attention to the great mineral possibilities of Canada in general, and British Columbia in particular.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions which may be expressed in this column. No notice will be taken of communications unless accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.

THE LEGIBILITY OF LOCATION NOTICES.

TO THE EDITOR:—In the last issue of your valuable journal, I noticed a letter under the caption "A Good Suggestion," dealing with a matter which is of the utmost importance to prospectors. I refer to the question of the legibility of notices which the locator is obliged to inscribe upon his posts after staking mineral ground. I think we, in British Columbia, could well afford to follow the footsteps of the Australians in the particular, at least, of requiring prospectors to nail to their posts plates of tin with the location notices painted thereon. Perhaps, however, as by the present practice of writing the notices in pencil, the wording is legible enough for the first year, the same purpose would be attained if a second notice, painted on a tin plate, was put up (say) at the time the first assessment work is done on the claim. Such a regulation as this would certainly be appreciated by the *bona fide* prospector. But the great trouble, in my opinion, is that the mining laws are not sufficiently stringently administered; in fact, they are disregarded with impunity, the sinners relying on the "good faith" clause for protection. Here is a case in point: A and B locate a fine quartz lead on a promising piece of ground. They are apparently too lazy to cut the usual stakes, and so select a dead tree sixteen feet high for their No. 1 post, proceeding to "square it" five feet from the ground, and on the smooth surface inscribe the following, (which may be legal): The S— Mineral Claim, located by A and B, March 21, 1896, No. 1 Post. (I suppose it must be legal if done in "good faith.") Then the location line runs out for four hundred feet, but, getting tired, no doubt, quitting blazing, the locators have evidently strolled ahead for twenty minutes, and then set up the No. 2 post. It has the same information written on it as No. 1 post. No discovery post could be found in the direction of the location line. On looking up the records the claim was recorded and the following sworn to as being the legal posts: The S— Mineral Claim, located by A and B, March 21, 1896. The location line runs south 1,500 feet to No. 2 post, and