

Judging from the talk we hear on the outside and our knowledge of the richness of the Cariboo Creek country, we expect to see very lively times there in the very near future. The character of the country and the mineral is identical with that of the Trail Creek country, and this rich mineral belt is known to extend right through from foot of Lower Arrow Lake to foot of Slocan Lake, a distance of at least 35 miles. This ground has been prospected but very little, only run over from the Narrows on the Columbia, part way to the summit at the heads of Goat, Snow and Canyon Creeks, so that even half the story on the Columbia side is not yet told. Here is a grand opportunity for prospectors, in both quartz and placer mining, and for capital to get in on the ground floor.

Most of the creeks prospect well in placer, especially Cariboo and Snow Creeks. On Cariboo Creek there was some work done in '94 but it was by poor men who had not the means to get to bed rock. A few who had the nuggets almost in sight were washed out by a freshet and not having means to open up again and winter coming on gave it up to try again at the earliest opportunity, which it is hoped will be the present season.

Prospectors can outfit at Burton City, the gateway to the mineral wealth of the Cariboo Creek country. Hotel accommodations are good. Pack and saddle horses can be had at reasonable figures. Game is plentiful, especially deer, cariboo and grouse, and if one has lost a bear he can also be found here. Fishing is grand, the mountain streams being full of the speckled beauties, the Columbia River teeming with the larger ones, while its tributaries in August are a swarming mass of the little red fish.

The Trail Creek Mines.

THE FOLLOWING extracts are taken from a letter written by Mr. Ernest G. Looke, one of the ablest mining engineers in the country:—

Having now been here about three weeks, I feel that I have looked around sufficiently to be able to give you a short account of the camp and also, my impressions of what the outcome will be. In the first place, I believe you are aware that all of the veins are heavily capped with iron, which must be pierced through before pay ore is reached. The veins are regular and continuous and as depth is attained the mineral increases in quantity and quality: this fact is now assured, that the deeper the shaft goes down the richer the mineral becomes. The ore is a pyrites of iron and a pyrites of copper, carrying gold and copper, called by mineralogists pyroethite and chalcopyrite. The values of the ores run from 2 per cent. to 15 per cent. copper, and from \$15 to \$75 and \$100 gold. It seems as though with greater depth the copper decreases and the gold increases and the rock carries more quartz. This seems to be the case with the Le Roi Mine, which has attained a depth of 450 feet and is the deepest in the district. The vein at the bottom is about thirty feet or more wide, carrying over \$100 in gold per ton. I may state to you here that the stock of this mine went a-begging last year at 40 cents, whereas I do not suppose that any of it could now be obtained at par value, viz: \$5. The principal mines are all close in to town and from a slight elevation can all be seen at once. When I say principal ones I mean those on which the most development has been done. They are all valuable prop-

erties. Some of them have paid large dividends, such as the War Eagle, \$157,000, etc., whilst others are merely developing either with a view to sell, or are waiting for the railroad so as to ship their ores at a better profit. Most of the stock of these concerns is at par or above, and very little of it can be obtained at that. Small blocks may sometimes be obtained here which are readily mopped up.

The names of the mines which appear to be on the main belt are the Josie, Le Roi, War Eagle, Iron Mask, Centre Star, Virginia, Iron Horse, Georgia, etc., with a few others which I do not remember, and on which very little work has been done. The Iron Horse and Georgia have both been sold since I came here, the former for \$60,000, including three claims; the latter of one claim for \$25,000. Not much work had been done on them, but they are on the same belt as the mines which are doing so well, and whose value is reckoned at up into the millions.

For miles the ground is "staked out" in every direction, and in many instances the cropping show good, strong veins very similar to the surface indications of the good mines I have mentioned. Of course, all of them are not going to be mines like the Le Roi or War Eagle, but some of them will no doubt prove valuable properties, and now whilst the camp is in its infancy is the time to buy out these claims at easy prices. The country rock is a very hard diorite, sometimes changing to syenite; consequently work is very expensive. I believe an ordinary tunnel 5 feet by 6 feet will cost \$15 a foot driven by hand, from which you will gather that it is no poor man's camp. The veins are not true fissures but are probably cracks formed by the diorite cooling off, and subsequently becoming the vents for springs of hot water carrying the minerals in solution (for a description of this theory I refer you to Le Conte's Geology). Walls, the veins can hardly be said to have any, neither can any other of the characteristics of true fissure veins be observed, still the overflow of diorite seems to have been so vast that for all practical purposes the veins will prove just as reliable as true fissures. They will extend at least through the diorite and very likely into the granite, as I understand the veins have been lately proved to do at Cripple Creek. At present, the camp is a smelting proposition, but I do not think that it would be safe to say that it will be always such after greater depth is attained.

One smelter is in full blast at Trail, on the Columbia River, and two others are said to have picked out their location and will soon be in course of construction.

I am perfectly satisfied with the outlook. I believe that the camp will prove a record breaker, and I am satisfied that any intelligent mining man who has some capital, which he will use judiciously, may in a few years gather together a fortune.

Nelson.

NELSON is pleasantly situated where the valley of Cottonwood Smith Creek joins the Kootenay River. It may be said to be the oldest town in the district and owes its commencement to the discovery of the Silver King and Kootenay Bonanza mines on Toad Mountain in 1886. The town was not laid out, however, till 1888, when the first lots were sold. It is one of the most beautiful spots in the Kootenay, as may be judged from the engraving which we publish in this number. Not only is it the terminus of the Nelson &