

days been put under a working bond to Spokane investors. Besides these I have mentioned there are numbers of claims that have been more or less opened up this season, some have done 100 to 200 feet of work; some shipped a little ore and generally the work done has improved the appearance of the property.

Lemon Creek.—Near the head waters, the prospectors have been busy developing and reports of both quantity and quality of ore are encouraging. Several miles of new trail have been built but no extensive work undertaken. On the Second North Fork, the leaseholders of the Black Prince have shipped over 150 tons, while the development has shown up the ledge so well that the group has been bonded at the price of \$75,000. Several other locations in the vicinity are looking much better for the season's work.

On the First North Fork the Chappleau and Slocan-Kilo Mining companies have, we are informed, been amalgamated with a largely increased capital, but work has not yet recommenced at the mines. The owners on the Legal count on developing all winter, as they are well pleased with the results, so far. The Fourth of July group has made two small shipments, and the

pays us London prices, namely, \$1.38 less \$1.00 per 100 pounds for transporting the lead. In 1897 we had a tonnage of 33,576 tons, returns for which were approximately \$3,280,686; in 1898 there were 31,057 tons shipped valued at over \$3,000,000; in 1899, which was a disastrous year on account of the eight-hour law, about 19,000 tons only were shipped, and in 1900, 35,000 tons valued at about \$3,280,000. During 1901 there has been shipped to date 25,675 tons—a very poor showing when taken into consideration that two new dry-ore properties have come to the front, viz., the Arlington and Hewitt, the former producing nearly 5,000 tons and the latter 2,000 tons, so deducting the production from these two dry-ore mines, it reduces the yield from the lead mines to about 18,000 tons. The above figures go to show that the Slocan has not made the progress it should and steps should be taken to improve matters in the future. At several mines operations have been entirely suspended, while others are only being worked in a small way. The excessive freight and treatment charges of \$19 per ton, with silver and lead so low, is no encouragement to mining in the district.

No great capital has been invested during the past



TOWN OF SANDON, AS RE-BUILT, NOV. 1901, SHOWING RUTH MILL AND STAR GULCH.

Hoodoo group, under lease and bond, has taken out some good ore.

The general outlook is good. The town of Slocan, where practically all of the business for this division is done, is fairly prosperous and has been incorporated this year. There are some 500 men at work and improvement is steady though slow. The coming year should see at least a proportional advance.

MINING IN THE SLOCAN.

By E. M. SANDILANDS.

THE past year in the Slocan has possibly been the worst since its discovery, in spite of the fact that to-day it is the richest silver-lead camp in North America. Since its discovery it has had numerous drawbacks and possibly more than any known camp of its age. We have had to contend against low prices of silver and lead, injudicious legislation, labour troubles, and this year added a new difficulty in the action of the United States smelter trust, which practically refused to treat, or even take, our ores. When the trust does condescend to purchase our product it

year, except to a limited extent in the dry-ore belt around Slocan City; the low freight and treatment charges on this class of ore is decidedly more favourable, as compared with the excessive charges on wet ores.

Below I append a short review of the development at the principal Slocan mines during 1901:

Slocan Star.—This property is working about 85 men and shipping about 40 tons of high-grade ore daily. Up to within the last three months most of the ore has been treated in the concentrator, but since then the character of the ore has changed, and as the mill failed to save the values, it was decided to ship in bulk and now better returns are being obtained. The mine is looking well, with plenty of ore in the lowest levels. Shipments are being made to the Trail smelter. This company would have paid another dividend had it not been for cost incurred in litigation over a dispute with the adjoining property.

Payne.—Development has been the main feature of this property during the past year, only sufficient ore having been mined to about pay running expenses. The No. 8 tunnel, which has been driven at great expense during the last year and a half, has failed to cut the lead at the lowest level and now a shaft is being sunk