

NOTES ON PORTLAND CANAL MINING DISTRICT, B.C.

Written for the Canadian Mining Journal by William W. Rush.

The Bear River Mining district, situated at the head of Portland Canal, B. C. occupies a strip of land about 25 miles long by 5 wide, drained by Bear River. The country is rugged and but for its proximity to tide-water would be difficult of access. The Bear River bars afford a natural highway into the heart of the dis-

trict in its development. It was the Klondike excitement of '98 which attracted gold seekers to the Canal to look for placer diggings at the head of Bear River and Naas. Their search was unsuccessful, but the presence of base metals was noted, and as a result of their explorations the first lode claims of the district were staked—the



George E. Tunnel—Glacier Creek Mining Co

trict, and the Provincial Government has been generous in the matter of roads and trails. A 50 foot roadway has been cleared and partially graded for twelve miles up Bear River with tributary horse trails into the hills. Bear River has been spanned by a 1400 foot bridge and a dock has been built at Stewart, the port and distributing point for the district. A railroad and extensive additions to the systems of roads and trails are assured for the coming season.

The recurrent psychological phenomenon known and vituperated as the "mining boom" was responsible for the beginnings of the camp as it is for the latest phase

"Roosevelt" in 1899, and the "Stewart" property on American Creek in 1902. The fame of these discoveries and the explorations carried on by M. K. Rodgers and associates, attracted numerous other prospectors to the district and in 1905 important discoveries were made on Glacier Creek.

The district lies on the eastern flank of the Coast Range granites and the mineral deposits occur for the most part in slates, quartzites and siliceous limestones (or argillites). These rocks are often schistose but the schistosity is not so general or so marked as on the western flank of the granite. Diabase and other ig-