

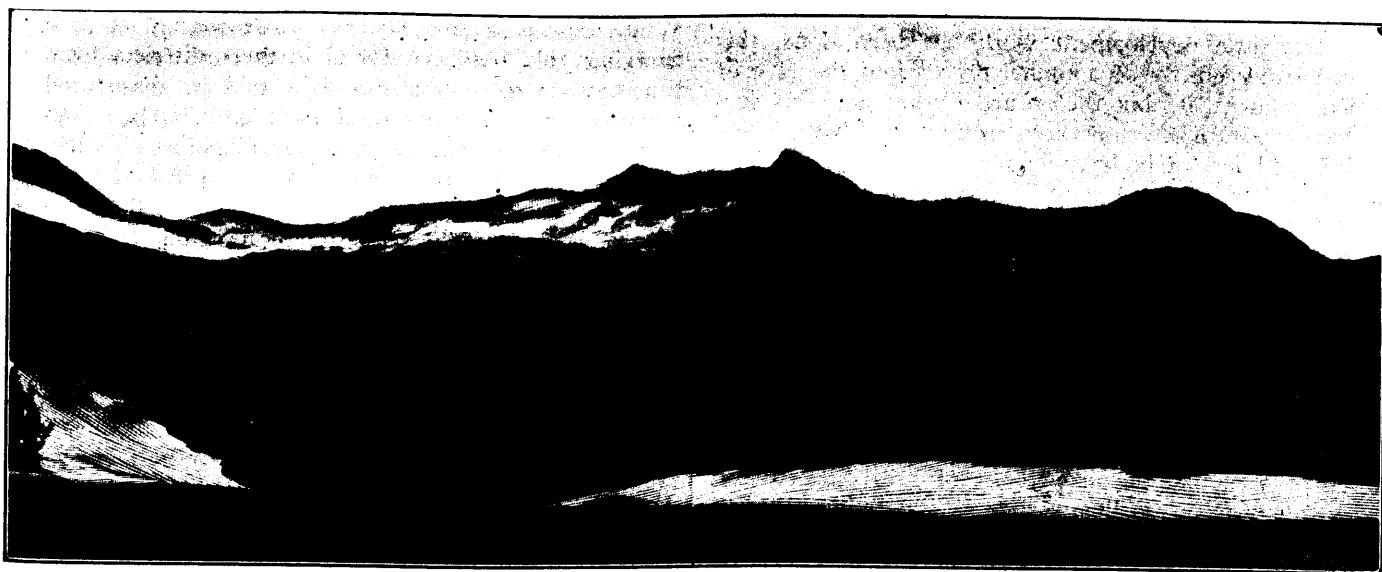
THE BIG INTERIOR GROUP OF MINERAL CLAIMS, VANCOUVER ISLAND.

PROMINENT among big surface showings of mineral discovered in the Coast districts of the Province is that of the Big Interior group. In January of 1905 the B. C. MINING RECORD published a short notice of the Big Interior, as follows: "This property is located almost in the centre of Vancouver Island, at the head waters of Bear River, and is reached *via* Alberni and Great Central Lake. Its altitude is about 5,000 ft. above sea level. Last year the owners cut a trail from the head of Great Central Lake to the workings and built two claims, one to each end of the lake. The trail from the head of the lake to the mine is about 10 miles long. This year

to get in to the claims, with the intention of bonding them."

Recently Mr. Herbert Carmichael, provincial assayer and assistant provincial mineralogist, acting under instructions from the minister of mines, made an examination of the property, and on his return to Victoria was authorised to give out for publication a general account of his impressions of it, which confirms reports previously received as to the great size of the showing of mineral.

Going from Alberni, Great Central Lake, which lies east and west, is reached by wagon road in 11 miles. As its elevation above sea level is only about 200 ft., the lake can be reached without difficulty. Thence for about 25 miles, the approximate length of the lake, travelling is by boat. From the head of the



Panoramic View of Big Interior Group, Showing Cliffs of Mineralised Rock.

they have done sufficient development work to prove that the very considerable showings of low grade ore are not merely superficial. These ore showings are most remarkable, being exposed the distance of nearly a mile, cropping out in steep cliffs about that distance. The ore body is of horseshoe shape, forming a basin, which, however, was covered with snow at both times the writer (Mr. Leonard Frank, of Alberni) visited the property. The photograph accompanying this description was taken in October, 1904. From present indications the property is capable of developing into an important productive mine, but capital is required to take the work in hand. There is available near by an abundance of water for power purposes."

Brief reference was made to the property in the published report, on the progress of mining in Alberni mining division during 1905, of the gold commissioner for the district, who said: "On the Big Interior group, in the great Central Lake country, assessment work was performed on seven claims. An attempt was made too late in the season by a party

lake to the mine the distance is as already stated about 10 miles. There is a gradual rise of something like 1,500 ft. in all, until a point within a mile and a quarter from the Big Interior is reached, when an abrupt ascent, described as nearly perpendicular, of 2,075 ft. has to be made, this landing the traveller on a plateau having a slight fall towards a small lake, about three quarters of a mile long by 400 to 500 yd. wide, on which there is a boat. From the farther end of this lake the trail runs north into the basin below the cliffs shown in the accompanying view. The head of this basin is hemmed in on three sides by precipitous cliffs, 1,000 to 1,300 ft. high, with peaks, snow-capped during the greater part of the year, rising at the back of them to a height of about 2,000 ft. above the lake at the foot of the cliffs, the highest points being 5,700 ft. or more above sea level. The summit of the high ridge forms a "razor-back," and the waters from the separate parts of these mountains drain in entirely different directions—north to Buttle's Lake and thence to Campbell River, east in the direction of Comox, south to Great Central Lake, and west by Bear River to Clayoquot.