

THE COMMERCIAL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

ROSSLAND AND TRAIL DISTRICT.

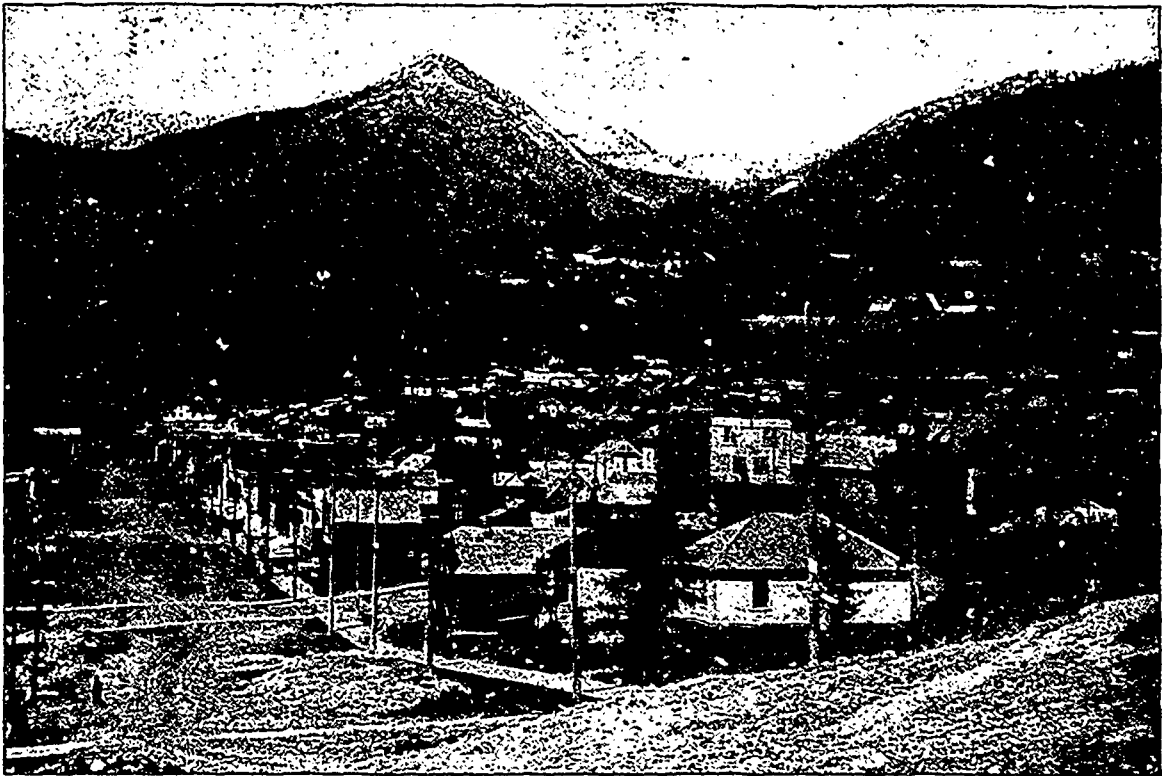
Rossland is the centre of the Trail Creek mining district, and is the best known camp in British Columbia and a noted mining center the world over. Looking back on its early history, one cannot but admire the pluck and determination displayed by the small band of pioneers to whom the lot fell of opening up and proving the value of the properties here situated. A brief history of the Le Roi claim will furnish an idea of what these men had to contend with. The Le Roi was located in 1890 by Joe Morris and Jos. Bourgeois, who also located about the same time the War Eagle, Centre Star, Idaho and Virginia. Bourgeois took samples of this ore to Nelson, but the assays were so low that he

pay \$30,000 and to expend \$3,000 in development work. Work was at once commenced, and by the following spring a shaft was down some 35 feet, the showings of ore being so satisfactory that the bond was taken up and the interest still held by Topping also secured. The first carload of ore was shipped in the fall of 1891 to the Butte smelter, which gave returns of \$86.40 in gold, silver and copper; but it took years of hard work to bring this mine to a paying basis, and many disappointments and obstacles were met with and on one occasion the mine was barely saved from the sheriff's hands. The stock was for a long time a drug on the market, and many instances are re-

came widely known for its richness and the stockholders were amply repaid for the disappointments and discouragements of early days. The Hon. C. H. Mackintosh, late lieutenant-governor of the Northwest Territories, became interested in this property and on a visit to London spoke of its remarkable possibilities with the result that the British-American corporation was formed, capitalized at \$5,000,000, which secured control of a number of properties in this camp, a majority of the Le Roi stock being purchased for \$6 a share, equivalent to \$3,000,000 for the property.

The War Eagle has also become a well known property and it has made some very heavy shipments, amounting in the year 1898 alone to over 42,000 tons. It is now controlled by the War Eagle Consolidated Mining and Development company, who also own the Centre Star for which they paid \$2,000,000.

The Iron Mask is another well-known shipper, having sent to the smelter in 1898 3,370 tons of ore which gave returns of \$72,600.



Rossland, B.C.

met with small encouragement, and was advised to drop it. However, they offered to give a choice of one of the five claims to anyone who would pay the recording fees, and they finally were able to make arrangements to this effect with E. S. Topping, who paid \$12.50 and took the Le Roi in settlement. Some work was then done on the claims, and a few shots put in, which gave more encouraging results, and with some of these samples Topping went to Colville, Wash., and had assays made, which gave returns of nearly \$500. Here he met George Forster, a lawyer attending court there, who persuaded him to go on to Spokane. The ore was shown to Oliver Durant, a practical mining engineer at Spokane, with the result that a company was organized, which took a six months' bond on the property, agreeing to

be obligated in which merchants and others were obliged to take this stock at a few cents per share in payment of debts in the hope that they might some day realize sufficient out of it to clear themselves. It was not until 1893 that the Le Roi became a regular shipper. A wagon road was built in 1893 to Trail on the Columbia River, where water transportation was to be procured and in 1896 F. August Heinze constructed a narrow gauge railway to the same place, and also started the Trail smelter. The railway and smelter have since been acquired by the C. P. R. and the railway raised to standard gauge. This gave better and cheaper facilities for handling the ore and in '96 the Le Roi paid its first dividend, which was followed by others in such rapid succession that the mine soon be-

These are the best known mines in this camp but there are a great number of others which are being systematically worked and are paying their stockholders good dividends.

Until recently the freight and smelter charges were so great that it was impossible to treat any but the higher grades of ore at a profit, but since the C. P. R. has taken over the railway and smelter these charges have been greatly reduced. Another improvement in this respect is the plant erected by the British Columbia Bullion Extracting Co., near Rossland, to treat ores by the Pelatau-Cluici system, which it is claimed, can treat very low grades of ore profitably. The electric works at Bonnington Falls on the Kootenay River, thirty-two miles from Rossland, are now furnishing power