

best means for opening up Big Bend, but probably a steamboat specially built to run to Laporte and a tramway from there would be the cheaper plan.

Not only is the Bend rich in gold, but large deposits of galena, copper, iron, and some bismuth have been found; the galena being similar in appearance to the products of the Slocan and Lardeau, with perhaps a smaller percentage of lead. Ledges of mineral have also been discovered, bearing the iron cap so common in the Trail Creek District, which, as is well known among

on hope for the last ten years, they are still confident that their mines up river will yet cut some figure in the world's gold production.

I have not been able to crowd into this article what I started out to do—particularize the various mines, companies, and syndicates operating in Big Bend, but I hope to find time at no distant date, to supply the defects I mention, as, by the courtesy of Mr. J. D. Graham, Government Agent at Revelstoke, I am promised access to the old records dating from 1865.



PLACER MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

mining men, generally denotes the presence of copper and usually gold in the hard pyrites.

When the mines in the southern portion of West Kootenay have all passed from the prospector to the capitalist, Big Bend will have its day. The mineral hunters will push further north, where the mountains are equally as rich as those lying between the 49th and 51st parallels, and it will not take so long to open up that region as it has the Slocan, Lardeau and Trail Creek Districts, because within the next decade there will be unlimited capital in Kootenay; capital that will be on the lookout for good things close at hand. It will not need to be coaxed from the far East—it will be on the spot. I do not mean to say that Big Bend will have to wait ten years for the commencement of its prosperity, because the stampede of prospectors to that gold country is already noticeable and capital is beginning to look with favor on its vast possibilities.

Those who live nearest and see most of its products—the people of Revelstoke—have unlimited faith in Big Bend and its future, and though they have been living

Cariboo Creek.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

DEVELOPMENT work is being pushed by Devereux, Rodd & Bourne on the Promistura. The tunnel has almost a solid mineral face and is said to assay \$70 in gold. According to surface indications, they should strike very rich mineral in from 10 to 15 feet.

Messrs. Maxwell, Ahlgren & McIntyre are packing provisions and will soon begin assessment work on their Snow Creek claims, the Grey Wolf and Union Jack, which assay 61 and 54 ounces of silver respectively.

Jameson is also on the ground ready to begin work on his numerous high-grade silver properties. Messrs. Tasson & Burton will begin development at once on the Black Bess, a fabulously rich gold, silver and copper property at the head of Goat Creek.