

A NEW AND PROMISING FREE-MILLING QUARTZ TERRITORY.

THE FISH RIVER CAMP.

By J. F. Musselman.

THE mining activity in that part of the Lardeau mining division now known as the Fish River Camp, properly commenced with the discovery of gold and the subsequent location on July 8, 1899, of the Eva and adjoining claims, although more or less desultory prospecting had been done prior to that date, a considerable number of claims having been located, and to some extent worked, while from

knew the need of a horn-spoon nor free gold ore when they saw it. The large quartz croppings with which the camp abounds and which constitute its distinctive feature, while full of golden promise, were not highly regarded, consequently were treated with scant attention by more intent only on the discovery of galena, and it is noteworthy that the locators of the Eva were searching for galena when they incidentally or rather accidentally made the discovery in question. These were two enterprising farmer prospectors from an eastern Province, James Tweedie and E. B. Hutchinson, and appeared to differ from their contemporaries, only in that they did not realize the improbability of finding galena in paying quantities in the prominent white croppings on which they went to work; they were also, perhaps, more energetic than the average of their co-workers,



Pool Creek.

one property, the Beatrice, a small shipment of high grade galena ore was made. Notwithstanding, however that a number of promising galena veins were thus discovered, and have been discovered since, the camp is pre-eminently one of free milling gold ore, and it is to this characteristic that its present prominence is due, and to which it will owe by far the greater measure of its ultimate success and prosperity.

It is not recorded that any one of the many prospectors who exploited the camp prior to the date above named, expected to find gold ore, nor that any one of them would have recognized it as such if it had been brought to his attention with the gold plainly visible. Indeed, in the light of subsequent developments, it may fairly be assumed that none of them

so that, by the time they came to recognize their exceedingly good fortune, they had shot a goodly number of tons of very rich ore down the mountain side. The matter of determining what the peculiar yellow metal which they could hammer flat on the anvil could be was one that vexed them much; the possibility that it might be gold being entirely too inspiring to merit consideration. However, they decided to show it to a friend in whom they had confidence, which resulted in the immediate location of the Eva and other claims, and their subsequent retirement from active prospecting on an assured income.

When the news of what these two "tenderfeet" had compassed got abroad, there was an influx of fresh forces, and the "old-timers" suddenly became quite diligent; to-day the camp fairly bristles with