

well as on the higher benches, are cattle ranches and farms. Good wagon roads traverse the country in all directions, steamboats ply upon the rivers, and the general impression created in the mind of a visitor is that residents of Kamloops are not only most unquestionably in the world but have several advantages to their credit not possessed by coast towns, including a dry, bracing and genial climate.

Leaving town on horseback, the long climb out of the Thompson valley was soon made, and in less than half an hour after leaving the livery stable, discovery and other posts were very much in evidence. The first claims of any importance are those of the Kimberley Mining Co. There is a nest of six claims four miles south of Kamloops belonging to this partnership. On the Occidental there is a wide ledge, how wide has not yet been determined, on which assessment work has been done. Samples of rock from this claim assayed \$80.00 in gold besides a little silver and a small amount of copper. On the Charlotte, however, this company has set to work, in a systematic manner, to ascertain what they have. Already a tunnel has been driven for over 130 feet, and several small stringers of mineral have been cut through. The owners expect to shortly reach the main ledge which has a surface showing on the top of the hill of some 30 feet wide. A shaft some 20 feet deep has been sunk on this ledge showing some excellent ore, assays going from a few dollars to several hundred dollars of gold per ton. This ledge has been traced through the Saucy Lass claim adjoining the Kimberley group and owned by the Pedro Mining Co.

On the opposite side of Peterson Creek valley is a group of quartz claims said to contain free gold, some assays giving from \$30 to \$90 per ton, and in some samples shown free gold is plainly visible. Nothing has been done, however, to show the value of these claims. Half an hour's trot over the hills to the Jacko Lake section and a veritable host of claims is seen, some more or less developed; others untouched by drill, pick, or shovel.

The Breeden group of claims is lying idle. A bond on these claims (\$10,000 with \$1,000 cash paid down) is held by some English capitalists, but there seems to have been no effort made to prospect the properties in a workmanlike manner. Certainly a shaft some fifty feet deep was sunk, but it would have been better left alone and the money so expended used in prospecting for a proper place to commence operations on. As it is, the spot chosen seems to have been taken at haphazard. The Pedro, Eureka, and Gold from the Grass Roots claims, adjoining the Breeden group, with their numerous prospect holes showing several ledges, have been more judiciously treated. Gold from the Grass Roots is bonded to some Fairhaven people. On these and many other claims in the neighbourhood there are good indications, fully justifying the expenditure of money, and no doubt this will be forthcoming in course of time. One feature of this country is the perfect ease with which one can ride or drive in almost any given direction. The hills are rolling, dotted here and there with pines and clumps of cottonwoods growing by the many small lakes that serve as watering places for the herds of cattle that graze hereabouts.

The Lucky Strike claim, bonded by J. Cobledick, for English capitalists, is being developed and is showing up well. Ore is being sorted and sacked as it is mined, and averages an assay of \$45 per ton, total values. Several properties around the Lucky Strike have been fairly well prospected, but not sufficiently to show any real value. The Lucky Strike vein is four feet wide at the surface, and so far gives no sign of "pinching." Within a short distance of the Lucky Strike are two important claims, the Python on the one hand, the Iron Mask on the other. Both of these are idle—the Python waiting for capital; the Iron Mask for a settlement between the Coal Hill Gold, Silver & Copper Mining Co. and Mr. Newman, who developed the claim for the original syndicate who acquired it from the locators. The ore of the Iron Mask is high grade copper-gold, assaying from \$35 to \$70 per ton. A trial shipment of half a car-load gave \$33 per ton at the smelter. A tunnel is in sixty feet, following the strike of the chute.

The Python claim, the first located in this camp, has been developed by shaft. The ore is copper pyrites, averaging twenty per cent. copper and \$22 in gold. A road has been made connecting the mine with the Government wagon road about a mile distant.

Less than a mile from the Iron Mask the Iron Cap claim comes into view. Here is a shaft sixty feet deep, following the dip of the vein, which is copper pyrites carrying gold. This is also lying idle. A local syndicate holds a bond on the property. A half-car-load of ore was shipped to the Everett smelter, but the returns have not yet been made known. Assays have yielded from \$12 to \$178 per ton. The Iron Cap shaft is about 200 feet from the Fragment

claim and as the ledge dips towards and under that property, which shows in addition a number of small ledges and stringers of the same nature as the Iron Cap deposit, there is every indication of this turning out a valuable claim.

A couple of miles farther on the Bonanza and Pot Hook claims are reached. Here is a large body of low grade ore, but its extent is not made evident. Two shafts have been sunk, most work being done on the Bonanza, however. Assays give from \$2 in gold and 10 per cent. copper. This ore would require concentrating.

Towering nearly a thousand feet above the Bonanza, and a mile and a half distant, stands Sugar Loaf Hill, the whole of which has been staked off in mineral claims. On the Little Smuggler, Gold Cup and Green Cub a fair amount of work has been done. Near the latter are the Chieftain No. 1 and No. 2, both under one ownership. Each has been sunk on to a depth of 50 feet. The ledges vary from one to three feet in width, the ore being iron pyrites, carrying gold and a little copper pyrites. The gold assays vary from \$2 to \$24 per ton. As this tour embraced most of the claims on which work beyond bare assessment work has been done, the writer took a short cut across country and in a couple of hours reached Kamloops, ready for the fray at dinner time.

There is a good supply of wood close at hand for timbering shafts and tunnels: the claims are all easily accessible by wagon road; the railway, in a straight line, is never more than five miles distant, and camp supplies are readily obtained in the town. Possessing these features, with good ore in many instances, this camp should soon come to the front.

Of all up-country towns Revelstoke perhaps has made the most rapid growth this summer, and it is estimated the population has quite doubled in the last six months. New buildings are going up in every direction—and in most cases they are buildings that would not disgrace well certainly no city in Canada. Recently a branch of the Imperial bank was established here and the town people take a pardonable pride in the new court house. In some ways Revelstoke is a peculiar place—it should be re-named Trinity town. There is the old town, the middle town and the new town, and they come together and make Revelstoke. But a stranger often does not quite know what to make of it when he is driven in the free bus, a mile or more, to an hotel in the lower town; albeit it sometimes impresses him favourably—a visitor last winter remarking that it was the finest place he'd ever struck, they gave a man a freesleigh ride before they had had time to even properly make his acquaintance or estimate his character.

The straggling manner in which the town is building is due, as is well known, to the action of the C. P. R. in removing their station and shops from the old town to the present site, which occasioned at the time a good deal of dissatisfaction, however, happily now all disagreeable feeling in the matter has been forgotten. Revelstoke also suffered for a period under the burden of litigation between the original pre-emptor of the townsite and the Dominion Government, the latter claiming that the land was within the railway belt and title was refused to purchasers of lots; a settlement was not reached until comparatively recent times. Everything now points to a prosperous future for the town, a capital water-works system is in force and a local company are now installing an electric-light plant. (I don't intend, by-the-way, to visit Revelstoke again until this service is completed, for wandering through its streets in the Stygian darkness of a cloudy night is an experience I have no desire to repeat.) There is, moreover, every probability that the town will, ere long, be incorporated. Among the local institutions number a hospital, eight or nine hotels, several general stores, the Revelstoke Iron Works, four hardware stores, three (!) breweries, four (!!) churches, two newspapers, one of which, the *Herald*, is issued semi-weekly, two cold-storage rooms, seven milliners establishments, five drug stores, etc., not to mention a number of Chinese shops in the main business street of the town. Revelstoke has been called the "Clapham Junction of British Columbia," which is obviously a somewhat foolish comparison, but it certainly is an important distributing centre, albeit by the building of the Crow's Nest Pass road the traffic of Southern Kootenay will be carried through another channel. Notwithstanding this the important camps tributary to the town, the camps of McCulloch with its quartz and placer claims, of French Creek and Jordan Pass where apparently valuable discoveries of galena have recently been made, of the Illecillewaet and Carnes Creek camps—fully justify its growth and guarantee its future prosperity. Of these camps I intend to speak more fully at some future occasion. At Arrowhead, some twenty-five miles by rail from Revelstoke, you board the steamer which takes you down to Nakusp, and if you are lucky enough to have a clear sky with the moon full (of course, you must take good care not to be in the same