

ising property. The B.C. Gold Trust, Ltd., is steadily developing the Oronoca and other claims at Uchucklessit Harbour, and under the direction of Mr. Thos. Bateman, M.E., more satisfactory work is being done.

#### SHOAL BAY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

About one mile and a half from the shore of Fanny Bay, on the west side of Phillips Arm and on the south side of the Bay, is situated the Dorothy Morton, which was bonded last fall by Mr. J. J. Lang for \$20,000. Work was then commenced, and considerably over 500 feet of tunnelling has been done in two places, which crosscut a lead of 106 feet of quartz, in which there is a pay streak 8 feet wide heavily mineralized with pyrites, and said to assay \$40. Assays of from \$2 to \$92 have been got from various parts of the lead, and it is probable that the average worth will be at least \$10, the whole of the value being in gold. A limited company has now been registered as the Fairfield Exploration Syndicate, owning the Dorothy Morton and nine other claims adjoining. They are now establishing a large camp for the accommodation of employees on the shore of Fanny Bay, preparatory to putting in an aerial tram from the mine down to the water front. The timber is being cut away for 200 feet along the proposed tram line, which will be installed as soon as this work is completed. The company, moreover, propose to install two power drills at once, and to build a cyanide reduction plant on the water front. Coal will be brought on scows from Nanaimo, and the water in the bay, which is nearly fresh, will be used. Some of the gold in this mine is said to be free and the results and the method of treatment to be employed by this company will be watched with great interest. The concern is capitalized at £50,000 in £1 shares. I hear that the Company have purchased the Dunn block and other real estate in Vancouver, but if their mining operations here prove successful the future of the district will be assured, and with the profitable working of the Blue Bells, the Champion and the Dorothy Morton, Shoal Bay will consequently attract great attention. There are many other prospects which should be as good as these when developed. The main tunnel on the Blue Bells is being driven further in and another large ore body of phyrrotite was reached last week. The owners of the Champion seem well satisfied with their prospects and work on this mine is being rapidly prosecuted. Mr. John Cobeldick is now at work on his claims in Estero Basin and some sixty feet of tunnelling cross-cutting the lead has been done. Some very fine looking specimens have been brought down. The tunnels are in quartz for the entire distance. The big wheel installed by Col. Forsyth is now in running order, but rock work has not yet been started, the intention being to use power drills from the beginning of operations. The owners of the Ajax have completed \$1,600 worth of work on this property including sixty feet of tunnelling and considerable open cutting. They have some hundreds of dollars worth of grey copper ore on the dump and in sacks, the ore assaying in the neighbourhood of \$100. The face of the tunnel is in a fine showing of bornite which carries a good proportion of precious metals with the copper.

#### FIRE MOUNTAIN AND HARRISON LAKE.

Very gratifying accounts have been received of the progress of mining in this district. The properties of the Fire Mountain Gold Company are being thoroughly exploited and developed, the Money Spinner lode having now been opened up by a 231-foot tunnel, a 96-foot winze, and an upraise of 55 feet. This is the most developed prospect in the district, but there are many claims which promise equally well. Prospectors are now going in by the Harrison route to a new field beyond, as far as the Lillooet River, which has hitherto been practically unexplored.

#### LILLOOET.

Good reports continue to be sent in from the superintendent of the Golden Cache, and seemingly the nickname this mine received of the "Golden Catch" will shortly be proved inappropriate. The main tunnel is now over 175 feet, and the pay streak, which is reported to be two feet wide, assays from \$3 to \$211 in gold. The company are installing a large electric plant and other machinery. A dam is being built, and the flume chamber and powerhouse will be completed in June. Meanwhile the season is somewhat backward in the district, and the trails are in very bad condition. Prospecting, however, will fairly commence by the first week in May, and a very active summer is anticipated. On the Forty Thieves group, the Blackbird, Mineral King, Ben D'Or and other Bridge River claims development work is being prosecuted.

#### CARIBOO.

The season in Cariboo has fairly commenced. Work has been started on the Horsefly, Cariboo Consolidated, Maud and other large properties. A company has been formed to dredge on the Quesnelle River, and the machinery was shipped this month. The company hope to derive much benefit from the damming back of the river by the Golden Quesnelle Company. Ashcroft, the starting point for Cariboo, is now very crowded with parties of prospectors and gold-seekers who propose travelling by this route Yukonwards. At present, however, the road is not in a particularly good state, the season being somewhat later than usual.

#### KAMLOOPS.

(From our special correspondent.)

Work on the Noonday is being vigorously carried on. There is an 18-inch ledge of quartz carrying visible free gold. Further development is awaited.

The Iron Mask is still tied up.

Now that the Iron Cap is bonded, pot-hunters are scrambling for bonds on surrounding claims.

The Pothook-Bonanza group is showing up well. The ledge of high grade copper ore encountered while cross-cutting shows there is more in this claim than a certain expert imagined. New claims are being staked out daily, and claim holders continue pegging away at assessment work.

#### BIG BEND, ILLECILLEWAET AND TROUT LAKE.

The announcement is made—but of its truth we are unable to vouch—that the British-America Corporation contemplate acquiring copper properties in Illecillewaet. It is, nevertheless, certain that this district is beginning to attract much attention, and a number of mining claims are now being developed with excellent results. Among others, the Donald, whereon a large body of low grade ore is being opened up with a tunnel, which is to connect with an 80-foot shaft already sunk, promises well.

Placer ground on French Creek, in Big Bend, is being taken up, and the several companies owning properties here are installing machinery and otherwise preparing for active work.

In the Trout Lake district extensive development operations are being carried on at the Silver Cup, owned by the Sunshine, Limited, a subsidiary company of the Lillooet, Fraser River & Cariboo Gold Fields, Ltd. A depth of nearly 250 feet has been reached in this mine, and a large body of high grade ore has been shown up. A shipment of 250 tons of ore was made this month. On the Free Coinage, a ledge of 14 inches of high grade ore was recently struck, and equally good reports have been received from the Carbonate Chief, on Keystone Mountain, the Union Jack, Ottawa, on Lardeau Creek, Mountain and Blue Jay, on Silver Tip Creek.

#### VERNON.

In the Vernon district the principal matter of interest is the proposed amalgamation of the Morning Glory and Ruby Gold Mining companies. The Morning Glory has from all accounts been in a somewhat bad way of late, a telegraphic despatch announcing that a part of the machinery had been sold by the sheriff to satisfy judgments amounting to \$270. On the Moffat Creek Gold Mining Company's hydraulic claim, situated upon Moffat Creek, a small tributary of the Salmon River, which empties into Shuswap Lake, a prospecting tunnel is being driven. Should the work being done at present prove satisfactory, and demonstrate that the gravel deposits are sufficiently rich in alluvial gold, it is said the company will then commence the construction of a large flume for the conveyance of water over a distance of about ten miles, the water to be used for hydraulic and ground sluice purposes. Seven men are now at work on the property, but under the changed condition indicated this number would be greatly augmented.

#### THE SIMILKAMEEN.

For some time past quartz mining has been in progress on Tulameen River claims, in the Similkameen, and several excellent prospects have been found here. The Crown Point has four veins of galena and copper pyrites from one and one-half to four feet in width, and assaying \$20. The Gold Coin, developed by an open cut which crossed two veins, assayed from \$6 to \$22 in gold. The Bonanza Queen, which adjoins it, has a tunnel of 50 feet showing a vein of from three to six feet, from which assays from \$20 to \$210 have been obtained. The Nevada, adjoining it on the north, has the same indications. The Copper Ring, about a mile away, has a vein carrying gold and copper assaying from \$30 to \$40. Farther to the westward are several claims which are showing up well.