

## THE CROWS NEST PASS ROAD

BY A COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Travelling east from Nelson along the Lechebridge and Crow's Nest section the first town reached is Moyie. This place has a population of about 500 with three general stores, a hardware, grocery, two dry goods and clothing stores, etc. It has a very pretty location on the shores of Moyie lake, the land for a short distance rising gradually to the mountains from a good towne.

The big factor in the life of this town is the famous St. Eugene mine, but besides this there is a lot of lumbering done. The business received from which amount to a considerable sum. Park Mitchell & Co. have a saw mill employing about 20 men, and the Moyie Lumber Co., of which Samuel Grant is the manager, has erected a mill this year of about 10,000 feet daily of capacity, around which 75 or 100 men will be employed.

The St. Eugene Coal-ified Mining Company, Limited, controls several claims on the hill behind Moyie. The main export is coal, and the St. Eugene, Peter, Moyie, Knap, etc. of the Hill and Lake Shore, the same level running through them all. The averages in width about five or six feet, though in places it is thirty feet wide. The ore is conveyed from the face of the tunnel to the concentrator situated on the lake shore, by a central shaft, 200 feet long, the cost of about 1,400 feet. The cost of transporting the ore from the face of the mine to the bins at the concentrator is about seven cents per ton. The concentrator has a capacity of 400 tons per day, and the output of the last year being between 60,000 and 70,000 tons, will concentrate from 70 to 100 tons per day. This mine produces most of the coal used in any other place in the province, and nearly as much as the total output of the St. Albans mine. An average of 250 men are employed.

The Aurora, on the west side of the lake, opposite Moyie, is a small town, the same as the St. Eugene. A tunnel has been driven about 300 feet which has been used for some time. No shipping has been done yet, but it is expected that it will be in shape before long to send out ore regularly.

On the Society Hill, east of the St. Eugene, is a lot of mining done, and a tunnel is close to 200 feet of tunneling done. There are four carloads of ore have been shipped which gave about \$80 to the men.

Iron Mountain, at the foot of the lake, is a copper property, which has been done.

### CRANBROOK

Twenty miles from here we reach Cranbrook, a town of about 1,000 population, built on a broad valley lying between the Selkirk and Rocky Mountain ranges. This is an important division on the C.P. line and a large number of railway employees live here. There are about five miles away a coal-ified mine of "Cranbrook" is done in the valley and there are some very fine mineral properties throughout the district tributary to this town so that the business here is shown by the size of the stocks carried. All the business and trade are well represented, there are a number of hotels, a branch of a chartered bank, a weekly newspaper, the Herald, a number of churches, etc. The town is supplied with electric lights and arrangements are being made to put a telephone system.

A number of changes and additions to this place have occurred during the past year. G. T. Rogers opened a grocery and provision store last December. M. H. King has bought a store. A. Croighton, grocer; Melville Bros. carried a hardware store and the St. Eugene hospital, which is a fine building, has been furnished and equipped in a very complete manner and is proving a great benefit to this locality.

The Cranbrook Lumber Co., Leach & Slater, and Robert McMillan have saw mill and besides supplying

the local trade, ship large quantities of lumber to the Northwest Territories and Manitoba. Leach & Slater also have a saw and shingle factory.

Earning the best done around here for some years and is now on the increase, a number of new settlers having taken up land during the year. Vegetables and grain are the chief products raised and for these a ready market is being pushed for, it is resorted to where the lay of the land will permit.

The principal mine in this district is the North Star, near the town of Kimberley. Last year this mine came under new management and several years have taken on new life. The mine is being systematically exploited and development is being pushed forward and is meeting with greater success than was ever hoped for. A branch railway has been built from Cranbrook up the valley of Mark Creek and a tramway has been built from the mine to the concentrator, and by this means the ore is handled very cheaply thus making it profitable to develop. It is being worked out previously could not be handled on account of the high freight charges. The output of the mine last year was shipped which averaged from 50 to 55 per cent lead and from 20 to 25 per cent silver. The mine produced about one-quarter that of the St. Eugene in tonnage, but the lead produced was about 100 tons. The mine has paid dividends of \$117,000. Fifty to fifty-five men are employed.

The Hamilton Group, situated on the Hamilton, Selkirk and Hope, claims a site on Sullivan Hill, north of a mile and a half from the North Star, and also claims a site on the Hamilton. This property has been under development for some years which shows the value of the property. It is found to be greater than the development of the North Star. The development work will only average about 16 to 17 per cent silver and 33 to 35 per cent lead. The development work is that this property will develop into a large producer of low grade lead ore.

The Belmont mine, which is tributary, both to Cranbrook and Port Steville, there are quite a large number of claims, and the Belmont has a great deal of money has been invested in the way of development work. Good results have followed. At the present time there is considerable excitement in this district about the property. Quite a lot of gold has been taken out during the past few months and capital is being attracted there to develop the placer properties that have been showing up good pay gravel. Placer work has been done in the Peter, Moyie river and its tributaries, quite a number have been working there, but the best results have been a mining district tributary to Cranbrook which has been attracting considerable interest.

A mining district tributary to Cranbrook which has been attracting considerable interest. The development during the past season has shown up a large number of claims, and the Belmont, the rich territory seems to extend nearly to the summit where the most of the valuable properties are to be found.

The Skookan Creek country, which lies between the Selkirk and Hope, is opening up in a most promising manner, and some very fine properties have been discovered. The area varies in different parts of this district. The North Star and Skookan Creek are the best properties in the Peter Creek district there is free-milling gold, and in the Peter Creek district the ores are copper.

### PORT STEVILLE

Previous to the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass railway, Port Steville was the only town in the district. The Kootenay, but as the railway passing nearly eight miles from it and Cranbrook has taken so much of the trade, the merchants here found it very difficult to hold the trade and Port Steville has received a new impetus. There are some who are remaining here, as

they know that it has a good country surrounding it, both mineral and agricultural, and that when a railway is built this valley will be one of the most important places. Nothing definite is known about this railway yet, but there are some rumors about some of which appear to be well founded, and it is hardly likely that it will be more than a year or two at most before this railway is built, particularly as a large amount of development has been done in the mineral properties around here and along the valley of the Columbia river and the Selkirk and Hope, showing up some very rich ores.

Port Steville is built on a high table land forming the eastern bank of the Kootenay river at this point, and stretching back to the Rocky Mountains, and commands a very pretty view of the St. Mary's river valley, which here joins the Kootenay river. Nearly all the mines around here are still in the development stage. The Belmont mine, which is being worked out of eight claims, is being operated under a bond for \$100,000. The Belmont mine is being worked out of a very large amount of ore on the dump, and there is something like 100,000 tons of ore on the dump. This property has been worked since 1907, but there has been no shipping done, and the Belmont mine is being worked out of a concentrator is erected, as the ore is low grade.

The Belmont mine is located in the John Bull group of eight claims. This was just opened up last year and some 200 tons of ore has been shipped. The Belmont mine is being worked out of a concentrator is erected, as the ore is low grade.

On Wild Horse creek is the Dardanelles, a large property. There is a large ledge, but the ore is not high grade, assays giving from 10 to 15 per cent silver and about \$10. About 400 or 500 feet of work has been done, exposing the ledge at about 100 feet.

The Dougherty, on Wild Horse creek, is also free-milling gold. There is a large ledge, but the ore is not high grade, assays giving from 10 to 15 per cent silver and about \$10. About 400 or 500 feet of work has been done, exposing the ledge at about 100 feet.

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in new machinery next winter and that work will then be resumed.

On Perry Creek there is considerable placer work, and the one company is contemplating putting in by hydraulic machinery in the near future.

### FERNIE

Shortly before reaching Fernie the train stops for a few minutes at Morley, where the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. has recently commenced working some of their property and as a result a station has been put on the road.

Fernie has become widely known on account of the immense deposits of coal which are being mined here. The coal mines here, which are operated by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. form practically the entire supply of the town of Fernie.

Fernie came into existence scarcely three years ago, but has already attained to great importance as a business centre and additional stores and dwelling houses are being added each year. There are now located here such general and dry goods stores, furniture stores, a hardware store, a men's furnishing establishment, two drug stores, two butcher shops, a brewery, a weekly newspaper, a branch of a chartered bank and a number of small business places, all of which appear to be flourishing. There are also two sawmills near here, which are being started by the Logan Lumber Co. and the Fernie Lumber Co. at about 10 miles from Fernie, and another, the Kootenay Valley mill, near the town, has been started. The local market is consuming its entire output.

There is a sign of considerable growth in this place during the past year. The London & Liverpool Co. of Canada, a general store, has built a three-story building, 30x120 feet, the first two floors of which are used as show windows, and the top floor being used as a hall. McDowell & Co. opened a dry goods store, and a hardware merchant, J. D. Quail, hardware merchant, has added a stock of furniture, Bill & Co. have added a stock of hardware.

The Fernie Coal Co. association started a general store under the management of the Fernie Coal Co. association, and has built a two-story building, the ground floor of which is divided into two parts, the first part being used for a store, and the second part being used for a warehouse. The Fernie Coal Co. association has added a stock of hardware.

The coal mines are some miles from Fernie, but the coal is of a high quality, except in live here. There are now 312 coke ovens here and 100 more are being started. The coal is being mined, earning in the neighborhood of \$100,000 a month, which assures to the town a large business on almost a cash basis.

### MICHEL

Twenty-three miles from Fernie, at Michel station, the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. are opening up some coal property. The results of 200 coke ovens is now being proceeded with and a large number of cottages and houses are being built for the workmen. There is only one store here which belongs to the Coal Company, but the Coal Company does not intend to sell any lots for other purposes.

### BLAIRMORE

Blairmore is the first town in Alberta. This town was only started in 1907, and has since that time become a general store, a dry goods and men's furnishing store, butcher shop, hardware store, and a large number of liquor stores and one or two small stores.

There is some ranching done a few miles east of here, but the town was started on the strength of some coal property which was discovered from the working of these that the expected business is to come. On the strength of this the Blairmore, Proctor syndicate, is right at the station, and in fact runs under the name of the Blairmore syndicate, and the same distance south of the station. The coal is bituminous and is of a high quality, and is the same as that found at Fernie. They have been working this property for some time, and it is estimated in about 150 feet on one seam showing a width of 22 feet of coal. The Blairmore syndicate is a property known to extend for the full limit of eight miles, and is the largest seam is about 30 feet wide.