

and south-east of Rossland. The work done on this claim consists of a shaft about twenty feet in depth sunk on the vein, which has now widened out to between three and four feet. The ore is a mixture of copper pyrites quartz and mispickel, assaying as high as \$20 in gold and eight per cent. copper. The improvement of the ore in this slight depth has given great encouragement to the owners, who have no doubt a most valuable property.

Following along the South Belt we come to the Celtic Queen, a property adjoining the R. E. Lee. A large amount of development work has been done on this claim, the ledge having been opened and exposed by small shafts and open cuts for five or six hundred feet. A shaft has been sunk fifty feet on the ledge and some very good-looking rock has been taken out of it. The lead can be traced by the open cuts, running right through the claim in a north-easterly and south-westerly direction.

Owing to the unfortunate management of the Nest Egg, Homestake, and R. E. Lee, the South Belt is not as far advanced as the North Belt, but now that strong companies are taking hold of several claims in this part of the camp, we shall in all probability see a great change in the next six months.

At this point we may as well mention that an application has been filed by the Crown Point Gold Mining Company for water rights on Tiger Creek, signed by Mr. Gooderham, who has placed orders for a twenty-drill compressor plant, and we hope in a very short time to see the Crown Point one of the regular shipping properties and dividend payers of the camp.

Following along the South Belt we come to the Gopher, a claim recorded under the old act, adjoining the Homestake. Rich strikes have recently been made on this claim, and work is being pushed on with great energy.

North of and adjoining the California is the Novelty, a claim containing about thirty-five acres. Three distinct ledges can be traced on this claim, and a tunnel is now being driven which should tap one of the veins at about seventy-five feet, and should cut the other vein at about 150 feet. The tunnel is now in about forty feet and the rock is heavily mineralized, containing copper and iron pyrites. This property shows every indication of turning out well, having an excellent tunnel site and can be worked very inexpensively, great depth being attained by this mode of developing the claim. Work is being pushed along rapidly and the outlook is very promising.

Notes About Slocan District.

THOSE who abandoned the Slocan when the crash in silver took place in 1893 and have settled in other sections, would be completely astonished to take a trip over the country to-day. The number of new mines that have been opened up, the various rich discoveries that have been made and the substantial and permanent improvements on all sides cannot but convince the most skeptical but that the mines go down to unknown depths and will be permanent and paying for perhaps ages to come.

It is conceded by all experienced persons who

have been engaged in the business of mining in the Slocan, that the country rock and vein matter is the softest and easiest to break of any they have hitherto met with. Outside the trachyte and serpentinite belt, on the north of the district, about all the underground work is done single-handed. So easily and cheaply is the ground mined that machine drills or air compressing machinery have been unnecessary.

Now that several concentrators are erected and in operation in the district the people of the transportation companies begin to realize the enormity of the future output of the mines already in operation. In breaking the ground to extract one ton of ore in many instances a number of tons of concentrating material are either broken or exposed so as to be easily mined.

The climate of the Selkirk Mountains, in which the Slocan district is situated, is one of the healthiest in the world. The scenery is varied and grand. Elevations above the sea of different points are as follows: Bear Lake (on the summit between Kootenay and Slocan lakes), 3,545; Three Forks, 2,626; Cody Creek (a tributary of the south branch of Carpenter Creek), 3,645; Slocan Lake, 1,865. The highest peaks are not much in excess of 8,000 feet.

The entire country is well watered with cool, clear streams, healthy for drinking or domestic purposes, and in such quantity as to be available on every hand for power. Timber also exists in endless quantity. White pine, red cedar, hemlock and red fir are the most plentiful. It is claimed that the white pine of this section is the finest and there is more of it than in any other part of British Columbia.

In the cleavage of the galena cubes from most of the ores found in the Slocan mines, are greater or lesser quantities of grey copper and antimonial silver. It is this fact which accounts for the ores carrying a higher per cent. of silver than many mines of other localities. Experts at the business say that this ore can readily be saved in the concentration process.

A Trip to Alberni.

MR. THOMAS KITCHEN, of Nanaimo, who recently paid a visit to Alberni, thus discourses in the *Nanaimo Free Press* about what he saw and his impressions regarding the gold fields of Alberni:

"Sunday morning I chartered Mr. Geo. Huff's steam launch and away we steamed for Granite Creek. Arriving there we climbed the mountains and inspected the various claims *en route*, including the well-known Star of the West, a claim on which considerable work has been done and which shows up well. Going up we met a gang of some dozen men who had been doing assessment and other work on several other claims some five or six miles higher up, and judging from the specimens they brought down, I say, as others have told me, that the district outside of the railway belt will not disappoint those who have pinned their faith on it.

"Leaving here about five o'clock we reached Alberni after dark. Then to bed, but not to sleep, and up betimes. Next morning we took a sulker out to Debeau's cabin—beg pardon, his hotel; for if you want to keep in Debeau's good graces you must not call it a cabin—on Mineral Hill, the distance, only twelve miles, owing to the bad condition of