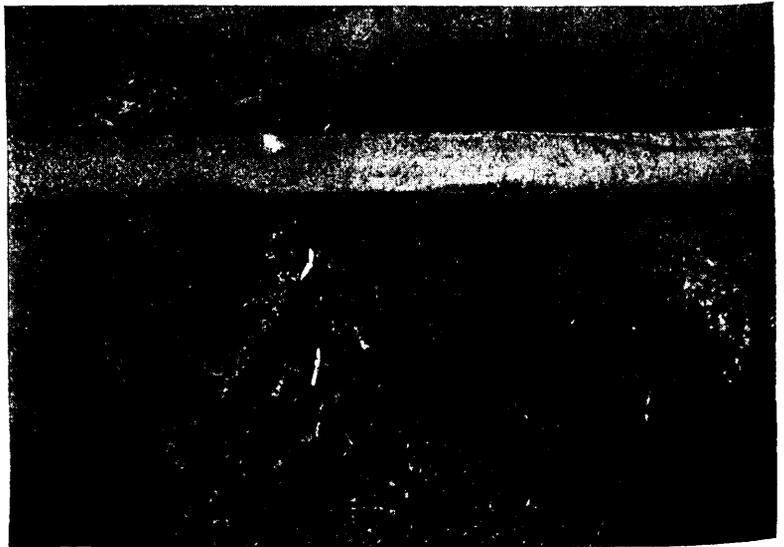


They were quite willing to have thrown in an insignificant extension called the "Velvet," but as it was very unlikely that the "Victory" vein ran through the "Velvet," it was left out. Such is the irony of mining. On the spur of the boom in stocks Sophie Mountain received its first serious development. And here a word in passing on booms. They are very hurtful things, doubtless. But if there had been no boom there would have been no "Velvet" mine nor "Victory-Triumph" mine to-day.

In the spring of 1897 company promoting and mining stocks were not in fashion. But the "Victory-Triumph" secured an English syndicate to buy control of the stock, and it is under their direction the mine is being worked to-day.

During 1896 the first assessment on the "Velvet" mine fell due, and it was truly a wonderful showing of gold-copper ore that was opened up. On the strength of it the "Velvet" was purchased by the New Gold Fields of British Columbia, presided over by Sir Charles Tupper, and it is worthy of remark, that this is the first English company in British Columbia which has developed a great mine from the grass roots. A shaft was sunk and down to the 100-



"VICTORY" VEIN—CROSSCUT NO. 1.

mentally higher. That is one peculiarity about Sophie Mountain. Never were seen such persistent gold values excluding the "Victory" vein, which is entirely different in character. Wherever there is ore there is pay.

The wonderful development of the "Velvet" has caused a great hunting for copper outcrops. One of the first results was the discovery and tracing up of the "Triumph East" vein, as it is called. Our illustrations show some of the surface work on this vein, which is very rich in gold and copper, and which was literally walked over by hundreds of feet before its existence was ever dreamt of. It is now developed by a vertical shaft 100 feet deep. Many other claims are now undergoing development. There are the "Ruth-Esther" owned by the Ruth-Esther Gold Mining Co., the "Bluebell" and "Portland" owned by the New Gold Fields, the "Whoopup" and "Tootsie" owned by the B. A. C. and the "Copper Chief" and "Copper Wonder" group, a very promising group of prospects indeed.

Some of all those will certainly make mines. Transportation will eventually be secured of a more modern kind than the useful rawhide by which the "Velvet" exported its first ore last winter; and then the great water supply of Big Sheep Creek will be brought into play to provide power. Sooner or later a brisk mining town will nestle in the valley at the foot of the mountain and another centre of wealth and enterprise be added to the growing resources of British Columbia.

THE CLOSING OF THE AGENT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

(From our London Correspondent.)

LIKE a bolt from the blue came this announcement from Mr. Forbes Vernon, the Agent General for B.C. :

27th September, 1898.

Acting under instructions received on the 19th inst. from the newly formed Government of British Columbia, this office will be closed on and after the 30th inst.

Of Mr. Vernon personally I know very little. A keen display of interest in the promotion of B. C. Mining Companies may have earned for him this fate, and probably we should all have been surprised



"TRIUMPH" EAST VEIN—SURFACE CUT.

foot level everything was lovely. A really splendid body of ore was opened up. But below, the shaft went out of ore and on all sides was heard the report that the "Velvet" had played out. As a matter out. They break and fault, but they never peter out. A little exploring on the 165-foot level and the of fact the copper veins in this country do not play "Velvet" was as big a mine as ever, only with this difference, that the gold value of the ore was im-