

have predicted for those mines a brilliant future. There will be about 100 men actually engaged in quartz mining at Kootenay Lake next season, besides a great many miners prospecting, and I would recommend that an officer be provided at that place as well as a record office and lock-up. In future it is also expected that many miners will winter there, as once the mines are properly opened, work, to a great extent, can be advantageously carried on throughout the year. I would here mention that the officer to be there stationed will require to be one of some experience and judgment, as otherwise complications of a serious nature are certain to arise owing to the valuable interests there centred, etc. Several mineral claims have been taken up during last fall on Wild Horse Creek, but as no assays have yet been heard of, it is impossible to pronounce upon their respective value. About 100 men, whites and Chinese, will winter at the last named place.

"In the Kicking Horse region 135 mineral claims have been located in different directions, viz.: in the vicinity of the summit at Kicking Horse, the First Crossing of the Columbia River, Quartz Creek, Beaver River, the Ille-cille-waet, and the Spallumcheen River, the latter empties into the Columbia River about 30 miles above the mouth of Kicking Horse.

"The mineral rock discovered gives evidence in many claims of gold the majority being galena. No developments, however, have as yet been made of a character to enable me to furnish any definite information regarding their value, etc.

"Upon the Spallumcheen River, where locations extend for over four miles, considerable work has been done upon several of the claims. The ore, a free milling, low grade, galena is abundant, giving returns from various assays of from \$12 to \$64 in silver, to the ton. The ore improves in quality as the work advances and gives evidence of gold, copper, antimony, etc.

"Feeling it my duty to do so, I would again call the attention of the Government to the great and pressing necessity that exists for the establishment of an assay office in this district. It has been frequently represented to me that the cost of shipping ore and having assays taken at a distant place is not only expensive, but unsatisfactory in every respect, as in most cases the returns so obtained cannot be relied on. I feel certain that in a pecuniary point of view the assay office would be self-sustaining, the rapid increase in quartz mining expected throughout the district cannot but lead to such a conclusion.

"It is estimated that about 15 men will winter at Golden City, 150 at First Crossing of Columbia River, and at the Beaver some 250 traders and shers. There will be from 1,500 to 2,000 men along the line of the C. P. R. getting out timbers, etc. The misunderstanding between the Dominion and the Provincial Governments, relative to the precious metals lying within the railway belt in this district, has militated very much against the progress of mining, etc., in Kootenay this year, and it is hoped that with the advent of the coming season, 1885, all such distracting complications may be removed.

"I have, &c.,

(Signed) "A. W. VOWELL,
"G. C. & S. M."

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