

quartz camp, with numerous claims having large bodies of ore on the dump and still greater ore bodies in sight. In Neihart, it has been a repetition of Wickes and other camps, that unless railroad facilities are enjoyed, the cost of transportation will eat up the profits. The natural watershed and contour of the country give an easy grade down Belt creek for a railroad to Great Falls, with no mountain range to cross; and when this railroad is built, the unusual facilities of power and fuel present at the city of Great Falls will form the greatest factor in building up the camp of Neihart. The lodes of the eastern part of Neihart cross Black Baldy and adjacent ridges, till they strike into Snow creek, which is a confluent of Carpenter creek.

#### SNOW CREEK.

The principal mines of this section lie on and below the large sag between Black and Long Baldy mountains, and are, as before stated, a continuation of the Neihart lodes intersecting Black Baldy, the end stakes of the mines of one camp joining the ones of the other. From the development done the veins are found to be large, regular, and well defined, in the majority of cases carrying high grade sulphuret ores. Among other locations the "Snow Drift," owned by Messrs. Lepley, Spencer and Choate, is developed by a tunnel over one hundred and fifty feet in length, and the "Ripple," owned by Okerman & Co., and each claim carrying free milling, high grade sulphuret ore. Other claims of favorable appearance are located as the "Creedmoor," "Alma," "Cornucopia," "88," "St. James," "I X L," "Green & Weatherwax," "Flora," "Cora" and "Blue Cloud," the majority of which are owned and developed by parties in Benton and Great Falls, they being the original locations made by Dan Dutro about six years ago.

#### CARPENTER CREEK.

Leaving Snow creek and descending into Carpenter creek, we find that the character of the ore bodies now change, and that the sulphuret ores have given place to galena in the eastern section, and copper oxides and galena in the west, with occasionally gold ores in the cross veins. Several locations were made on Carpenter creek, prior to the discovery of Neihart, by Dan Carpenter, who may be said to be the pioneer of this section.

Going northeastwardly up the creek, the first claim is found on the east side named the "Oro Fino," owned by Messrs. Marr, Griffith & Ingersoll, which is well developed by a deep shaft. The ore in this mine is galena, carrying considerable lead and a good average of silver. Other locations which I have not examined are made in this vicinity. About one mile further up the fork is the "Rainbow" and "Colorado," of Richard Brennan & Co. This claim is a strong, well defined vein, carrying galena of a remarkably free character. The site of the vein also presents admirable facilities for tunneling. About two and a half miles further is the "Renovo" claim, belonging to Joseph and Charles Meek, which, from the work done, promises to be valuable property, a cross cut now made showing about eight feet of ore, principally galena. This part of Carpenter creek has been little prospected on account of its being so difficult of access; but by character of veins already found it is certain that there is here a large field for prospecting in the future, which might possibly be equal to any yet found.

Returning to the west side of Carpenter creek, opposite the "Oro Fino," up a small affluent, we come to a large number of locations. The first claim is the "Monte Christo," belonging to Carpenter & Co., and a little further is the group of locations owned by the Belt Park Mining Co., on which a large amount of development has been made. This group comprises the "Whippoorwill," "Uncle George," "Hughes" and "De Lorier," and is owned by Messrs. Burghardt, Hughes & Co. The "Whippoorwill" carries a large amount of galena of excellent quality in the principal shaft but there are also one or more cross veins on this location. The "Uncle George," in addition to galena, carries cuprite in large bodies in both tunnels. A considerable amount of ore is on the dump. On the northeast end is the "Hughes" and "De Lorier," also carrying cuprite and copper and silver ores of varied character. Southwest of the "Whippoorwill" are the "Foster" and "Starlight" of Mackey & Co., which carry ores of similar character to that of the Belt Park Company's mines.

Above the "Hughes" and "De Lorier," and skirting the ridge between Hoover and Carpenter creeks, are several very good claims carrying galena and silicious carbonates, among which may be named the "Silver Queen," of Chowne, Foley & Co., the "Silver Reef," of Foley and Black, "Little Giant" and "Amazon," of Wells & Co., the "Dolphin," of Dunn & Co., etc.

Many claims are located on the confluent of Hoover creek, containing copper, silver, etc., especially toward the northwest. On the ridge from the "Silver Queen" are other locations towards the north, and again more in Spruce gulch, which then brings us within a short distance of Clendenia.

#### BARKER.

This mining centre, the second one discovered in these mountains, has this past year revived somewhat from the dull times it has experienced for the past six years. The camps are now shipping ore to the Great Falls smelter as fast as means of transportation will admit; the number of locations may be said to be legion.

All kinds and grades of silver ore can be found here, but it is the carbonate

deposits which will affect the future of the camps most favorably. These deposits are found on both the east and west sides of the camp. On the west the principal locations may be named as follows: "Pride of the West," "Silver Belle," "Silver King," "Washington," "Brewery," etc., etc., which form one group. The ore found is a very free carbonate often carrying galena easily worked and is a favorite with smelter men, because it is not refractory. A large amount of development has been done on these claims the past year, especially on the "Pride of the West," by Messrs. Otey, May & Co., and which has increased the value of the claim so greatly.

On the northwest side of the camp is another group of mines of similar character, among which may be named "May and Edna," "Anna May," "Belle of Hightwood," "Welcome," etc., etc. These are also in limestone, carbonate in character, and by working tests are very free. On the northeast side of these claims are also more of similar character, viz.: "Boss," "Belt Mountain," and "Moulton," which have a large amount of development made on them. Due west from here about half a mile the character of the veins change, carrying more copper as you approach the old Barker trail; among these may be named the "Oxide" and "Vista."

The central portion of Barker, including both sides of Galena creek is in a granite formation, and it is in this that the oldest claims are found. Prominent among others may be named the "Barker," "Grey Eagle" and "Wright and Edwards" which have been extensively developed, both having been large ore producers in time past. In the immediate neighborhood are "Lynch and Conway," "Queen of the Hills," "Equator," "Kalloch" and "Emerald," etc. All these claims carry galena which is very similar in character; and having been worked considerably the past few years can be easily opened on a large scale in the future.

At the head of the northeast forks are other groups of locations which are again different in character; among them may be named the "Meek," "U. S. Treasury" which in places have carried very high grade ore, and "Tiger" and "T. W." adjacent which have been shipping ore for some time past. These are very promising properties.

On Gold Run creek are some claims, among them the "Benton" and "Flintlock," which are among some of the oldest claims, and mostly owned by Benton parties. Near the mouth of this creek is the "Cosmopolitan" belonging to M. Wilson which has lately come prominently to the front.

This last fall and winter many locations have been made by various parties. From personal observation in years gone by, I am satisfied there is a large mineral field at the head of Dry Fork awaiting development, not only in the granite near the higher mountains, but also in the lime deposits between there and Dry Arrow creek which are intersected by porphyry dykes.

On the east side of Gold Run Baldy is the "Butler" No. 2 of Messrs. Sinclair & Co. of Great Falls, which is a very promising property, on which considerable work has been done. The ore is somewhat different to any other found in the vicinity.

Following around the divide between Belt creek and Dry Arrow creek a large number of locations have been made this fall, thus connecting the camps of Barker and Wolf creeks.

#### WOLF CREEKS.

Leaving this divide and proceeding eastward down Spring gulch, at a distance of five miles we arrive at Dry Wolf creek, one of the most romantic and picturesque streams on the Judith slope, which was partially prospected some years ago; but this year it has received a larger investigation by experienced miners, with the result that new and important discoveries have been made of large carbonate deposits, easy of access and of great promise.

Striking the mouth of the cañon and proceeding up stream, a stranger's attention is forcibly arrested by the stupendous vertical limestone cliffs colored by metallic stains, and at the same time weathered and torn into every conceivable fantastic shape. A little further on the cañon opens out into wide, beautiful parks skirted by evergreen forests. The creek, by misnomer called Dry Wolf, ripples through the valley, a wide and beautiful stream.

At the first confluent on the right, called Butcher Knife creek, the visitor arrives in the neighborhood of the mineral claims, which now dot the valley and will, in the future, make this an industrial mining centre. A remarkable feature of the valley is its unusually small grade, which makes Dry Wolf, from the forks of Running Wolf creek to the base of Big Baldy, present no impediment whatever to the building of a railroad. This means of transportation is now needed, for not only are the precious metals found, including lead and copper, in numerous places, but also vast deposits of iron, which, when utilized, will be found greatly superior in quantity and quality to anything yet found in Montana.

The present status of the camp has been greatly helped by the labors and discoveries of the Cascade Gold and Silver Mining and Prospecting Company, owned and controlled by Great Falls parties who have been working in this section all summer. On Butcher Knife creek is one of their locations named the "Forest," carrying gold, silver and lead. About half a mile further, Baldy creek, taking its rise in the eternal snows of Big Baldy, enters the valley. On