

breakfast was welcome. To understand how welcome you must drive from four to six in the morning in a bracing air. If some enterprising Ashcroft person would open a coffee house near the B. C. Express office he would have the gratitude as well as the coin of passengers who are now "sent empty away." At Hat Creek, the road to Lillooet branches off from the main line, and about four miles farther north striking evidence of mineralization appears in the iron-staining of the hill-side. The mouths of three tunnels



Ashcroft, point of departure for Cariboo.

were observed but inquiry elicited the information that no ore body had been reached. On the Maggie claim, between the waggon road and the Bonaparte, River, Hawkins is said to have sunk a shaft 200 feet and struck copper. There is a marked similarity in all the country rock between Ashcroft and Clinton. Occasionally measures that seem to be true shales



British Columbia Express Co.'s Stages at Hat Creek.

appear, and in one particular place these were seen to maintain a horizontal position, but in most cases they have been metamorphosed and converted into schists. At times they were thought to resemble igneous rocks, but a closer view precluded that idea; for the talus was in all cases the same, of fawn colour

or slaty gray, and sometimes flecked with white, which was, we presume, kaolin.

Onward from Clinton the traveller to know just where he is has much subtracting to do, for here the old Lillooet road comes in, and thereafter the mile-houses are numbered according to their distance from Lillooet, which is thirteen miles farther than Ashcroft. The old mile-posts increase his difficulty, for on them, in addition to the mileage from Lillooet, is marked the distance from Yale. It is true there are new posts with the number of miles from Ashcroft cut into them, but these so closely resemble trees lopped off for telegraph poles that they are easily overlooked and even when one is seen all difficulty is not at an end, for the old calculation sometimes does not tally with the new, even when that vexed subtraction has been done.

At Clinton the altitude is about 3,000 feet; six miles north of the town there is a rise of 800 feet; from that point to Bridge Creek, a distance of about sixty miles, a mean altitude of 3,900 feet is maintained.



Eighty-three-Mile—a Well-kept Road-House.

The highest point on this plateau is Mt. Begbie, situated just beyond 83-Mile, height 4,200 feet. Drift covers the surface of the country and no exposures of rock occur, with one conspicuous exception, at the 61-Chasm, where there is disclosed a vertical section of basalt of the Miocene period, upwards of 1,000 feet in thickness. In the bottom of the ravine lies a lake fed at its north-western end by a creek and having its outlet to the southeast into the Bonaparte River. When the basaltic plateau was at a lower elevation there was evidently a river here which cut out this canyon along a natural line of weakness. The drift or boulder-clay which covers the surface of the plateau as with a mantle bequeathed by the Ice Age, consists of clay, sand and boulders of all sizes. These boulders are largely vesicular or scoriaceous in character and representative of the underlying volcanic rocks, but there is also among them more or less of foreign material. Between 70-Mile and 83-Mile a chain of lakes