

Bench gravels occur in Willoughby creek and other places, but the deposits seen were all small.

The creeks staked as placer ground traverse the shales and sandstones of the Nass formation. These rocks, away from the mountains, contain few quartz veins, and the stream gold is probably mostly derived from the greenstones and associated rocks of the Bear River formation in which all the large streams head. No evidence of an old channel crossing the district independently of the present drainage system, firmly believed in by some of the miners, was observed. The bench gravels seen all belong to former higher levels of the present streams.

RETURN ROUTE VIA STROHN CREEK.

The return trip to Bear river was made by Meziadem lake and Strohn creek. Little White river, formed by the junction of Porter and Nelson creeks, has been bridged by the Provincial government a few miles above the mouth of Willoughby creek, and from this point a foot trail has been blazed, but very imperfectly cut out, across the wide wooded ridge separating Nelson from Strohn creek, the next large stream to the north. The ridge, where crossed, has an elevation of approximately 2,700 feet.

Strohn creek has recently acquired importance as a possible route to the Groundhog anthracite basin, at the head-waters of the Skeena, Nass, and Stikine rivers. It heads with Bear river, in a low glacier-covered pass, and flows eastward to Meziadem lake, the latter emptying by a short outlet into the Nass river. Strohn Creek valley has an estimated length of 9 miles, and a grade of approximately 100 feet to the mile. The valley is flat-bottomed, usually half a mile or more in width, and offers no especial difficulty for railway construction.

The glacier at the summit heads in the high mountains to the south, and after reaching the pass alters its course and separates into two short branches, one flowing to the west down Bear river and the other to the east down Strohn creek. The combined length of the two branches is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. This portion of the route would have to be tunnelled. The Strohn creek, or easterly branch of the glacier, terminates at an elevation of approximately 1,540 feet and the Bear River branch at an elevation of 1,370, while the ice-covered summit, where crossed, has an elevation of 2,270 feet, measured by the aneroid.

Bear River valley, from the foot of the glacier at its head to its junction with American creek, the present terminus of the railway, has a length of about 9 miles. It is flat-bottomed