

showings, but little development. The camp needs transportation facilities and more work to bring it into prominent notice.

CARIBOO.

The Cariboo district embraces the Cariboo and Quesnel mining divisions. The following is a brief review of these divisions:

Cariboo.—Among the most important enterprises in this part of the district are those of the Consolidated Cariboo, Ltd., on Lightning creek, and the Slough Creek, Ltd., on Slough creek. For years these have been endeavoring to prove the value of the deep channels of the respective streams upon which they are operating.

The Cariboo Consolidated, after putting down a series of boreholes on one of its Lightning creek claims, to ascertain the cross section of the valley, and obtaining most encouraging prospects of gold from bedrock, sank a working shaft to a depth of 175 ft. At 165 ft. the main tunnel, 8 by 5 ft., was opened and was driven 306 ft. to the gravel in the deep channel. From this tunnel drives have been run, both up and down stream, with the object of draining and blocking out these gravels. Cross-cuts have been made from these drives, and there are now practically 400 ft. in length of the deep channel blocked out and in condition to mine when once the gravels shall have been drained. The water has been steadily lowered, at last accounts by some 80 ft., with about 40 ft. more to lower before the gravels may be worked on the large scale contemplated. The quantity of water pumped is approximately 1,300,000 gallons every 24 hours, but this is less than one-half the capacity of the pumps installed. Forty men, on the average, were employed last year daily. The values obtained from the bedrock gravels are stated to be of a most encouraging nature, and are believed to prove without doubt that it will be practicable to mine these gravels at a large profit after the deep channel shall have been drained. The company's Lightning creek property extends from Beaver Pass to a mile and a half above the town of Stanley, a distance of seven miles, five of which have not been worked. The power plant installed here includes steam boilers of 190 h. p. capacity, Corliss engine, hoisting engine, air compressor and machine drills, exhaust fan, two Cornish pumps, each 18 in. in diameter and 8-ft. stroke, etc. An electric lighting plant, was also installed and a ditch 300 ft. long constructed, to bring in water for washing the gravels when mined.

The Slough Creek Company's experiences on Slough creek have been similar in general character to those of the Cariboo Consolidated at La Fontaine, as stated above. The main tunnel from the shaft here is more than 1,000 ft. long. It is 8 by 7 ft. and at 889 ft. from the shaft water locks were placed. Much driving and boring has been done beyond these locks. Last year the work of driving cross-cut tunnels was continued until August, by which time a remarkable improvement in the reduction of the heavy pressure and flow of water had taken place. Yet headway was unsatisfactory, so it was decided to use the diamond drill to make a cross-section of the channel from the main tunnel. This work was proceeded with, using compressed air, and it was expected that it would be completed by January 1. The decrease of water underground during the entire run of the spring freshets, and the continuous simultaneous working in the tunnel, proved that there is no connection between the surface water and that being drained from the deep channel gravel, which is covered by a capping of 100 ft. of blue clay. The considerable decrease in the flow of water is shown by comparisons made in total quantity at different dates in the year. Wherever openings were made in the gravel most satisfactory prospects of coarse gold were secured, notwithstanding that the gravel had to be shovelled out of a torrent of water, so that only a percentage of the gold could be saved. The big pumps and other machinery are in excellent order, and the mine generally in good shape.

With continued drainage and decrease of water there are most encouraging prospects of success in the near future and of large profits being earned from the mine.

General.—The hydraulic season of 1904 was only an average one. The heavy rains that fell in the autumn of 1903 made that season longer than usual, admitting of work being carried on quite late in the year. The miners have been a little dissatisfied that a similarly long run could not be made during the season lately closed.

The Flynn claims on Mosquito creek, and their Alabama claim on Willow river, are now on a good paying basis. Formerly these two were drifting diggings, but they are now open hydraulic. The Thistle company of St. Paul, Minneapolis, on 8-Mile lake, is reported to have taken out more gold this year, as well as last, than has been recovered the same season from any other claim around Barkerville. The value of the season's clean-up is placed at something like \$30,000. Two creeks down Big Valley, viz.: Stuart and Coffee creeks, below the Thistle company's ground, are being worked. Drifting is being carried out on Stuart creek, and a 12-ft. waterwheel has been installed for pumping and hoisting. On Coffee creek the diggings are open hydraulic and are owned by the Thistle company. On Jack of Clubs creek a bedrock tunnel, now in about 1,200 ft., is being run to strike a hill channel on the right bank of the creek. At about 1,000 ft. in, connection was made with the surface by a raise, to facilitate further work in the tunnel.

Since water went down in October, and for about two months, the Point claim, on Lightning creek, was reported to have taken out about 100 oz. of gold per week. Prospecting is going on, above the La Fontaine, on this creek, on several other claims.

A shaft is being sunk to strike the channel of Canadian creek; this is now down 350 ft.

The Pleasant Valley, Ltd., is sinking a shaft on a side hill in Libble valley, and a drainage tunnel is being driven to connect with the same. A large shaft house has been built, and a plant, consisting of two steam boilers, engines for pumping and hoisting, and a Cornish pump, has been installed. The pump easily disposes of all the water that comes into the shaft.

In the Antler creek section, Mr. B. A. Lascelles' company has had much success with an open hydraulic on Wolf creek (also called China creek). The same company has had similar results from their hydraulic on Cunningham creek. The Union company has resumed work and is running a drift to strike the channel of Grouse creek. This claim is situated about a mile above Waverley, which latter has at last, after 20 years' work, proved a payer and a good one at that.

On Willow river, Laird & Co. have, on their deep diggings, a 24-ft. water wheel and two 18-in. pumps working day and night. This claim lies immediately below Mosquito creek and it is believed to be very rich. With the present pumping plant there should be no risk in entering the deep channel this season.

There are about the districts many claims that afford a living to a single miner, or to a man and his "pard." The Chinese do a lot of mining here and there, but little is heard about their work or its results. The best claim owned by Chinese is, perhaps, Stevens creek, on which nuggets worth \$50 to \$60 are sometimes found.

Quesnel.—The hydraulic mining operations of the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Company, on the south fork of Quesnel river, are the most extensive of their class in the Province. With an ample supply of water, results obtained some years have been very profitable, but during the three seasons, 1902-04, the working periods were very short, the water supply having been entirely insufficient. It is proposed to greatly extend the company's water drainage area, so as to provide against similar unprofitable experiences in the future. The effect of dry seasons may be gathered from the following comparative figures: In 1900 there was an ample supply of water so that a run of 172 days was made, with a recovery of \$350,086; in 1903 water was very short,