

stampede was made to the spot and the ground staked off into claims. These spots were called bars, and many of them have become historical from the quantities of the metal which they yielded, and by the associations which cluster around them. The first paying bar above Langley was Maria, and between this and Yale there were twenty others, from all of which diggers were taking large amounts of money. Hill bar was the last and richest before reaching Yale, and here during the Summer of 1858 were congregated many of the old California experts, among whom could be counted not a few of the wild and abandoned characters who had made unsavory reputations in the Golden State. As bases from which supplies were distributed to the miners, Langley, Hope, Yale, Lytton and Lillooet, rapidly rose into populous towns with thriving businesses. As the bars below Yale became filled the intrepid prospectors forced their way northward over the Little Canyon and up to the mouth of the Anderson River. In this stretch thirteen bars were located from all of which the miners extracted on the average \$15 a day to the man. Boston Bar, at the mouth of the Anderson River, was especially rich, and indeed it seemed to the adventurers that the farther north they went the more abundant and more valuable the "finds" became. This fact led the more daring to push forward in the face of all difficulties and privations. There were already miners as high up the river as the forks of the Thompson, who had penetrated thither by way of the Columbia River and who, since April, had been obtaining large returns, although working in the very teeth of starvation. This point was as far north as the miners got in 1858. There was, of course, a small number of the more adventurous who prospected as far up as the Quesnelle, but winter closed in before they were able to accomplish anything beyond finding the indications everywhere excellent. On the Fraser below the Thompson, and on the Thompson itself, however, work during this year was pursued with zeal, and a great portion of the river gravel was sifted by the miners.

Of the twenty-two thousand who went to the Fraser River in 1858 all but about four thousand left before the middle of Summer. This immense exodus was owing to the seemingly inaccessible character of the country, together with the discouraging fact that the bars from which the gold was to be taken could not be got at on account of the high water till after midsummer. Notwithstanding