

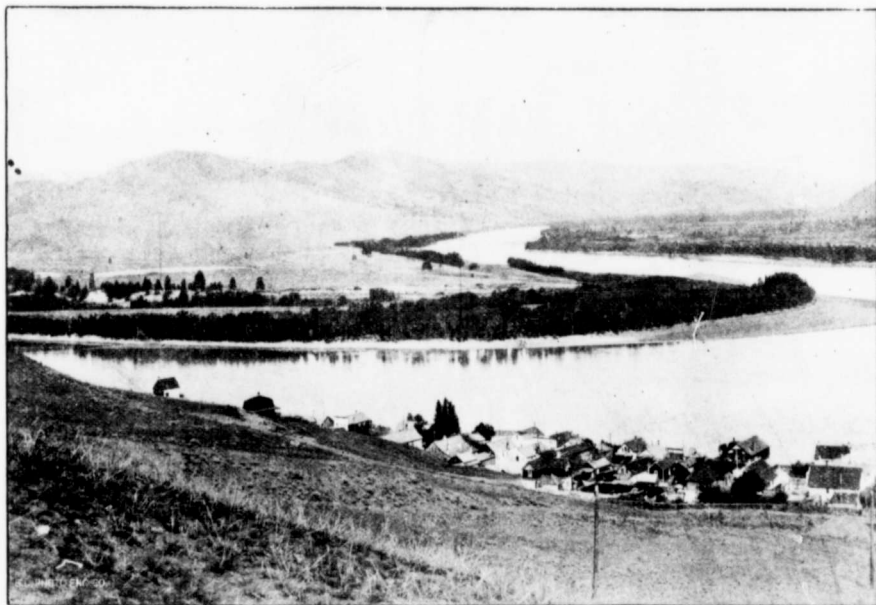
GOLD - DREDGING POSSIBILITIES ON THE NORTH THOMPSON RIVER NEAR KAMLOOPS, B. C.

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(Queen's prizeman in Geology.)

THE possibility of profitable gold dredging on the North Thompson river is a question which has been canvassed and advocated for many years. Hitherto dredging operations in British Columbia have been confined to the Fraser river and its tributaries, and the rapidity of current together with the heavy character of the gravel in these streams, have made gold saving, by dredging, an uncertain and rarely profitable process. Although the same amount of coarse gold is not found on the Thompson as on the Fraser river, the less turbulent character of the former stream, together

On the North Thompson river, Jamieson, Edwards and Louis creeks, as well as the Barriere river, are reported to have yielded gold up to \$10 a day per man with the primitive appliances then used, and up to the present day both whites and Chinese find gold washing on these creeks and the river bars profitable, although the wages earned are supposed to be small. The origin and occurrence of this gold is also a question which receives much attention. The speculative dredging expert with a few leases to sell, points with calm assurance to the fact that men with primitive appliances which only handle one cubic yard or so per day can make \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day, and this is only at the surface mind you; why, below the gravel must be so rich that he dares not estimate its value because he is afraid he should place it so absurdly low. Your expert will then ask you to estimate the profit-earning capacity of



THE VALLEY OF THE NORTH THOMPSON RIVER AS VIEWED FROM KAMLOOPS.

with the indications of gold that can be obtained everywhere, lead to the belief that gold dredging on the Thompson river may be followed with better success than has attended the industry on the Fraser river. The current on the North Thompson rarely exceeds four miles per hour, and the gravel is of a character that makes dredging a simple and easy process. A dredge, built on the latest and most approved New Zealand pattern, is now on the point of starting operations, and as this season's work will be confined to testing the river bed at different points, its results are looked for with much interest. For the past two years dredging experts and speculative lease holders have paid great attention to this river, and as soon as it was known that a dredge was to be erected some eighty miles of the river was staked off for dredging leases. In the early days of placer mining large amounts of gold must have been taken out of the bars of the Thompson river and its tributaries.

a dredge which can handle 2000 cubic yards of gravel per day at a cost of less than five cents per yard. Supposing a man, as he has already shown you, can get \$2 out of one cubic yard. Of course the amount staggers you and you feel that there must be a weak place somewhere, but if you still refuse to put your little pile into such a good thing, the expert looks at you pityingly and thinks you are "no good."

The evidence and experience of the placer miners does not bear out the sanguine expectations of the "expert." The writer, besides being familiar with the North Thompson river and its tributaries, has further examined most of the old placer workings and constantly endeavoured to learn from placer miners who have washed on the bars and creeks of the Thompson for the last twenty years or more, what has been their experience, with a view to finding out all that was already known as a result of former work as to the nature of the origin of this gold. Old placer miners without exception state